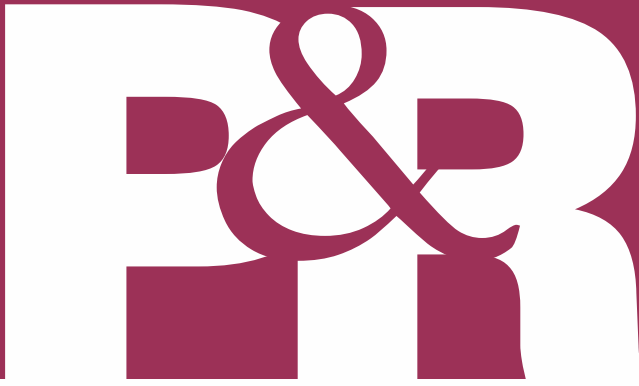


illinois

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PARKS AND RECREATION

The magazine of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association

A photograph of a young child with blonde hair and bangs, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The child is wearing a colorful, striped sweater in shades of pink, orange, and purple, and a bright orange turtleneck. They are holding a large, yellow, autumn leaf in front of their chest. The background is a soft, out-of-focus autumn scene with warm colors.

Parks Designed to Match Community Interests

PLUS: 2017 Soaring to New Heights Pre-Conference Guide
and the 2017 Election Calendar

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FROM THE EDITOR



It is that lovely time of year when the air is cool and crisp and the leaves on the trees are turning a thousand shades of beautiful. Fall is coming upon us and it reminds me of my childhood when it was my job to rake the leaves. My friend lived right next door and we would rake the leaves from both our yards into one giant pile and jump right in it!

Nowadays, it can be difficult for parents to get their children away from video games and outside for some good old-fashioned fun. This is where the parks come in. The quality and diversity of the recreation that is offered by parks today is incredible.

In this issue, we are not just talking about parks, but parks that match community interests. Not that most parks aren't wonderful but there are some that were designed with specific community needs in mind. In this edition, a few agencies share their stories of how they involved the residents to create magical wonderlands for children to play in. Others could see a void in current offerings, so they enlisted a team to design and build special parks for those with disabilities as well as a park that will serve the general population. This includes the parents and caregivers who take their children to the parks to play.

We are also proud to present the Preliminary Program for the 2017 Soaring to New Heights Conference and the 2017 Election Calendar. These are both great reference tools for you to save and use accordingly.

Whatever surprises this fall has in store for you, take time to get out to your neighborhood park and make some new memories this fall!

— Rachel Laier, Editor



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Peter M. Murphy, J.D., CAE
IAPD President and CEO

The Board Member's Commitment to Excellence

There is a great deal of good governance taking place at the park district, forest preserve and conservation district level. One of the competencies that board members need to have for good governance relates to the finances of their agency.

Many times, the board members struggle with understanding agency finances until they have been through a complete tax cycle. Onboarding new members with a crash course in finance is an important step in building great boards.

The board has a responsibility to ensure that a mechanism exists for prudent fiscal management. The agency staff should support this goal by making supportable budgetary requests, taking into consideration a realistic approach to finances. Both the board and staff should not hesitate to tell their story directly to the agency's constituency.

I would suggest that boards ask themselves the following questions when determining overall board understanding of financial issues. As a self-test, answer the following questions with a "yes," "no," or "don't know/can't judge."

- Does the board have a basic understanding of fund accounting, budget and appropriation and tax levy requirements and procedures?
- Does the board review financial status and spending patterns periodically during each fiscal year?
- Does the level of board oversight of finances allow the administration sufficient flexibility to operate efficiently yet responsibly?
- Are financial reports and related information provided to the board in a timely manner?
- Do regular financial reports provide comparisons of income and expenditures for the same period in the preceding year with sufficient explanation of deviations from budget?
- Are the financial reports and related information made available to the board presented in a manner that is readily intelligible to the lay person?
- Does the information that board members receive provide them with a sound and complete basis for effective decision making?
- Before approving the expenditure of funds for a given purpose, has the board been provided with sufficient written information indicating the source and availability of the funds for the expenditure and that sufficient funds remain for district operations and anticipated future expenditures after the current expenditure has been approved?
- Does the agency have a development plan that considers as potential resources apart from tax levies in the following areas?
 - External funding from business and government grants.
 - Special fundraising activities, i.e., planned giving, capital campaign, etc.

- Is there adequate financial commitment on the part of individual board members to influence other persons or organizations to give?
- Is financial information, including the annual audit report, provided to each board member with adequate time reserved for discussion of it at an appropriate board meeting?
- Does the board or any of its members meet with the auditor and director to discuss the audit process prior to the annual review or immediately thereafter?
- Does the board receive drafts of the budget and appropriation ordinance together with a detailed explanation from the executive director or chief financial officer in sufficient advance of its adoption to enable responsible review and possible revision prior to adoption?

"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception; it is a prevailing attitude." – Colin Powell



- Does the board receive an annual schedule of actions required to be taken by the board with respect to its financial oversight function (i.e., annual audit, budget and appropriation ordinance, truth in taxation compliance and tax levy ordinance, debt issuances/roll-overs and payments)?

As with finances, board members should periodically review their commitment to overall excellence and remind themselves of the following:

1. As an individual member of the board, I will:

- Recognize the integrity of my fellow board members and the merit of their work;
- Be motivated only by a desire to serve the people of my community;
- Recognize that it is my responsibility, together with my fellow board members, to see that the agency is properly run – not to run it myself;
- Work with the executive of the agency – not over or around him or her;
- Conduct board business only at legally called board meetings;

- Remain politically non-partisan on agency issues;
- Attend continuing education programs to learn about the proper duties and functions of a board member and to stay abreast of the trends and issues affecting the field.

2. In performing my proper functions as a board member, I will:

- Deal in terms of general agency policies;
- Function in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine, as a part of a legislative, policy forming body, not as an administrative officer.

3. In maintaining desirable relations with other members of the board, I will:

- Respect the opinions and decisions of fellow board members;
- Recognize that authority rests with the board as a whole, not with me as an individual;
- Make no disparaging remarks in or out of meetings about fellow board members;
- Recognize that promising in advance how I will vote on any proposition under consideration closes my mind to other considerations, facts and points of view that may be presented in the meeting;
- Make decisions in board meetings only after all sides of the question have been presented;
- Consider unethical (and thus avoid) secret meetings of the board.

4. In meeting my responsibility to my community, I will:

- Attempt to appraise fairly both the present and the future needs of the community;
- Attempt to procure adequate financing and support for agency programs, facilities, and services;
- Interpret, as best as I can, the needs and attitudes of the community to fellow board members and the executive;
- Insist that business transactions of the agency be ethical, open and above board.

5. In working with the executive, I will:

- Hold the executive responsible for the administration of the agency and give him or her the authority commensurate with that responsibility;
- Expect the agency to be administered by the best-trained professional available;
- Participate in board decisions only after considering the recommendations of the executive;
- Expect to spend more time in board meetings on policies, programs and procedures than on day-to-day operations;
- Give friendly counsel and advice to the executive;
- Refer all complaints to the executive and, if necessary for other issues, insist that the source present them in writing to the board as a whole;
- Present any personal criticisms of employees to the executive and not to the employees;
- Provide adequate safeguards for the executive and other personnel so they may perform their duties on a professional basis.

As I travel around the state of Illinois visiting member agencies, it is clear that park district, forest preserve and conservation district boards are living by the sage advice of Pat Riley who once said, "Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better." No unit of local government in the state of Illinois does it better than park districts, forest preserves and conservation districts.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday,
September 19, 2016
IAPD Summer Golf

Tour #4
Park District of
Highland Park
Highland Park
Country Club

Thursday,
September 22, 2016
IAPD Leadership
Institute
Leading Through
Turbulent Times
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Downers Grove Park
District's Recreation and
Fitness Center

October 6-8, 2016
NRPA Congress
St. Louis, MO

Friday, October 21, 2016
IAPD Best of the Best
Awards Gala
Wheeling Park District's
Chevy Chase
Country Club

Thursday,
November 3, 2016
IAPD Legal Symposium
McDonald's
University/Hyatt Lodge
Oak Brook

January 19-21, 2017
IAPD/IPRA Soaring to
New Heights
Conference
Hilton Chicago

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EYE ON THE PROFESSION

A CLOSER LOOK AT TRENDS AND ISSUES IN THE PARK AND RECREATION PROFESSION



By Debbie Trueblood, CAE
IPRA Executive Director

IPRA Has Big Plans for this Fall

Believe it or not, the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference is right around the corner. We are all looking forward to the conference and going back to the Hilton for 2017 and 2018, giving the conference a refreshed feeling. We have so much going on in the fall and I want to quickly remind you about all IPRA has to offer you.

As we catch our collective breaths after the busy summer, I want to especially thank Teresa Grodsky and the Senior Committee of the Recreation Section for their leadership on the annual Six County Senior Games. The event was a huge success again this year.

I also want to thank the members of the newly formed Joint Section Golf Outing team, including representatives of each of our seven sections as well as the Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation. The event is scheduled for September 16 at Tanna Farms and all proceeds go to the IPRF student and professional scholarships. We thank the volunteers, attendees, and our long list of generous sponsors.

Also in September, our annual ProConnect and ProConnect South programs begin for the 2016-2017 cycle. We will be doing our mentor/mentee matching of those who sign up in mid-August and then attendees will get together at the first event. For the Chicagoland area, the first event is Wednesday, September 21 for a social/networking event at Pinstripes in Oak Brook. One of the changes we have made for this year's program is that the first event will include a break-out opportunity where mentors and mentees will be separated into separate rooms, respectively, and speakers will host a facilitated discussion about how each part of the relationship can further develop the mentoring outcomes. For the ProConnect South group, the first event will be Friday, September 9 in Godfrey, IL. Another change we made this year is that we have adjusted our educational curriculum. We are thrilled to be bringing a speaker in from North Carolina who is a PhD and a national expert on mentoring who will add a layer of researched best practices to mentoring. The speaker will be the main event for the second event in the ProConnect cycle in both north and southern Illinois.

Later on in the month, on September 29th the IPRA board will elect the 2017 Chair Elect and Secretary. In IPRA, our Chair Elect is elected from among the current board members. Once we know who has been elected, we will alert the membership right away. The Chair Elect will be sworn in with the board in January at the Annual Business Meeting, and will become Chair in 2018.

The Awards and Recognition Programs are a wonderful way to recognize leaders in the field and outstanding projects accomplished over the past year. Conference award winners are announced at the Annual IAPD/IPRA State Conference Awards Luncheon in front of colleagues and legislators from across the state. The application deadline for conference awards is October 10, 2016. Award applications include: Advocacy Award, Outstanding Sustainability/Conservation Award, Community Impact Award, Professional of the Year Award, Community Service Award, Robert Artz-Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Facility & Park Award, Young Professional Award, and the Outstanding Program or Special Event Award.

We have so much going on in the fall and I want to quickly remind you about all IPRA has to offer you.



Additionally, it's time for the Exceptional Workplace Award submissions. Park and recreation agencies applying for the Exceptional Workplace Award must complete an online survey (the link to the survey will be emailed to you once you complete the registration form). It includes a series of 46 questions, and each question must be answered. A point value has been assigned to each question, which the committee will use when your questions are being reviewed and tallied. Once the survey has been reviewed, if the committee feels that there is a need for documentation, your agency will be notified prior to the final decision. Surveys must be completed by October 10, 2016.

IPRA will be holding IPRA elections among the membership by electronic voting October 17-21 with voting closing at 4:00 PM on the 21st. The ballot will include IPRA board positions as well as Section board elections. IPRA board positions up for election this year are the North West Region Rep (e.g. Rockford) and the Central Region Rep (e.g. Springfield). (All IPRA members statewide may vote in all elections.) Only professional members vote.

Upcoming Events

I will be seeing many of you at NRPA's annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri. We are thrilled to be bringing back our Illinois social at NRPA. As their schedule is a little bit different this year, our social will be on a different day than usual. Please join us on the night you're likely driving in prior to opening session on Tuesday night, October 4 at the Lucas Park Grille from 7:00-9:00 PM. This year, two of our affiliates - the Suburban Park and Recreation Association and South Suburban Park and Recreation Professionals Association - will be co-hosting this event with us. All Illinois attendees are welcome to join us.

After we're all back from NRPA, I hope that you will join us for the Professional Development School (PDS) November 13-16. This year, we are excited that we have a new location in Galena, Illinois. If you have never been, PDS is a great opportunity. It is a small conference and for many of the attendees, they say it feels like the educational quality of our statewide conference, without the large crowds. PDS has about 100 people, all of whom are together in the same hotel sharing meals and free time together for three days. People are encouraged not to use their professional title and get to know each other without that barrier. PDS has three levels- first year, second year, and graduate. Most people attend for at least two years, completing the first two years of the program which are standardized. Then, the graduate level is different every year and PDS alumni are welcome to come back year after year for this constantly changing high level quality education. I highly recommend it.

The Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation (IPRF) continues to evolve. The Foundation was formed in the spring of 2012, just a few months before I came to IPRA. Over the last four years they have focused on restoring the Partners of the Future Fund (this goal was achieved), increasing fundraising towards our new goal of building that Partners of the Future Fund to \$500,000, streamlining scholarships across IPRA into one standardized application and approval process with shared funds so that all IPRA members have access to scholarship opportunities regardless of section or regional affiliation, and getting their policies, bylaws, handbook, etc. in place. At this point, they are taking the next step and holding a strategic planning retreat on Monday, November 14 to plan for the future. We will be working with an outside consultant on this process.

Finally, I would invite you to utilize the new Unplug Illinois Transformation Toolkit, available at www.unplugillinois.org. Several agencies have begun using it and have been getting lots of attention online. The intention of the toolkit is to provide you with resources to better market your agency while educating your community about the value of parks and recreation. Every agency who has seen the toolkit has noted how impressed they are with the final product which is the result of three years of intensive work by IPRA's dedicated volunteers. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to help you and your agency with research, advertisements and fact sheets.

IPRA has so much to offer you before we get to conference. I hope you take advantage of these opportunities. I look forward to seeing you at these events and others. Have a wonderful fall and I'll see you at Conference at the Hilton.

September 14 & 22, 2016 Skills Development Webinar Series - September: THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS MANAGING ENTRY LEVEL STAFF

In this session we will discuss barriers associated with recruiting and retaining entry level staff members – of all ages. We'll explore some of the social and socioeconomic barriers associated with staff retention, communication and training. Learn how to create a successful playing field that emphasizes keeping staff once you've invested the time and training for them to be on your team.

September 16, 2016 Joint Section Golf Outing

Enjoy a beautiful day on the greens at Tanna Farms in Geneva at the annual Joint Section Golf Outing! Includes 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner & raffle prizes.

September 27-29, 2016 Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course (CPSI)

The CPSI program offers the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety as well as provides certification for playground safety inspectors.





For details and registration, please visit the IPRA event calendar at ILipra.org

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Photo: Armand Heppin, Park District of Hill





Jason Anselment
Legal/Legislative Counsel

Governor Completes Action on Spring Session Bills

Of the more than 10,000 bills that have been introduced in the 99th General Assembly, 443 were approved by both the House and Senate this year. The Governor recently completed action on those bills approved by both chambers by signing approximately 400 into law while vetoing nearly 40 others.

The General Assembly is scheduled to take up the Governor's vetoes during the Fall Veto Session that is scheduled for November 15 – 17 and November 29 – December 1, 2016.

Below is a summary of the new laws approved by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor that impact park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

IAPD Legislative Platform

HB 4536 / Public Act 99-0771 (Walsh, Jr., L. / Hastings, M.) raises the competitive bid limit threshold for park districts, forest preserves and conservation districts from \$20,000 to \$25,000 effective August 12, 2016. This change will help IAPD member agencies and their taxpayers save administrative costs on small purchases by allowing park districts, forest preserves and conservation districts to utilize their own local procedures in lieu of the state-mandated competitive bidding requirements when making purchases that are less than \$25,000.

All of the other bills on IAPD's two-year legislative platform were signed into law in 2015 during the first year of the 99th General Assembly as **HB 1363 / Public Act 99-0271 (Fine, L. / Holmes, L.)**, **HB 405 / Public Act 99-0053 (Sandack, R. / LaHood, D.)** and **HB 3882 / Public Act 99-0016 (Moffitt, D. / Jones III, E.)**.

Open Meetings Act

Two new changes to the Open Meetings Act were effective as soon as they were signed by the Governor.

HB 4630 / Public Act 99-0515 (Ives, J. / Connelly, M.) codifies a rule that a public body's minutes and verbatim recordings of closed meetings may be accessed by current members of a public body who have been elected or appointed to fill a vacancy in an elected office. An elected official's access to closed meeting records shall be granted at the public body's main office or official storage location while in the presence of a records secretary, an administrative official, or another elected official of the public body, and the records may not be recorded or removed from their location except by vote of the public body or by a court order.

HB 5683 / Public Act 99-0714 (Breen, P. / Nybo, C.) allows citizens to file a lawsuit in circuit court within 60 days after a non-binding decision of the Public Access Counselor (PAC) related to alleged Open Meetings Act violations. The intent of this measure is to encourage citizens to first use the PAC's request for review procedures before filing a lawsuit. Previously, if the PAC issued a non-binding decision after the deadline for filing a lawsuit passed, a citizen could have lost his or her right to seek judicial review.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

HB 4715 / Public Act 99-0586 (Bryant, T. / Radogno, C.) addresses situations where a public body fails to comply with a court order or binding opinion of the PAC that is based upon alleged FOIA violations.

One change will allow a court to impose a penalty of up to \$1,000 for each day that the public body fails to comply with a court order beginning 30 days after the order is issued unless the court grants the public body additional time or the order is appealed or stayed.

Another change relates to a court's authority under existing law to impose a penalty of up to \$5,000 for willful and intentional FOIA violations. Public Act 99-0586 provides that if a FOIA requester files an action to enforce a binding PAC opinion, the public body's noncompliance with that binding opinion will be presumed willful and intentional if the public body does not comply with the binding opinion or file for administrative review of that opinion within 35 days after the date the public body is served with the opinion. The public body may rebut this presumption by showing that it is making a good faith effort to comply with the binding opinion, but it was not possible for the public body to comply with the binding opinion within the 35-day time frame.

These changes are effective January 1, 2017.

Other Local Government Disclosure Laws

HB 4379 / Public Act 99-604 (McSweeney, D. / Cullerton, T.) creates the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act. When it becomes effective on January 1, 2017, this new law will require all non-home rule units of local government, school districts, and community colleges to regulate travel, meal, and lodging expenses for officers and employees through the adoption of an ordinance or resolution.

At a minimum, a local government's travel policies must regulate the reimbursement of all travel, meal, and lodging expenses of officers and employees, including: (1) the types of official business for which

such expenses are allowable; (2) the maximum reimbursable amount for such expenses; and (3) a standardized reimbursement expense form that includes minimum documentation such as cost receipts (or cost estimates if the expenses have not been incurred), the name and job title or office of the individual who received or is requiring the travel, meal, or lodging expenses, and the date and nature of the official business in which the travel, meal, or lodging expense was or will be expended.

When the new regulations become effective next year, travel, meal, and lodging expenses of any board member may only be approved by the public body after submission of the required documentation and approval by a roll call vote at an open meeting. Expenses of employees or officers that are not board members would also require approval by a roll call vote at an open meeting if the expenditures exceed the maximum allowed under the public body's regulations. Entertainment expenses, which are defined as shows, amusements, theaters, circuses, sporting events, or any other place of public or private entertainment or amusement cannot be reimbursed unless those expenses are ancillary to the purpose of the program or event.

Again, this new law does not become effective until January 1, 2017. Although the Act provides local governments may only approve expenses subject to the Act by a roll call vote at an open meeting 60 days after the January 1, 2017, effective date, i.e., March 2, 2017, and may only approve and pay these expenses if they have approved regulations 180 days after the January 1, 2017 effective date, agencies will likely want to review their existing policies and make any necessary adjustments prior to January 1, 2017 to avoid any confusion.

HB 5684 / Public Act 99-0646 Public Act (Breen, P. / Nybo, C.) creates the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act and applies to IMRF participants who began participation before January 1, 2011, and are not subject to a collective bargaining agreement. The new law provides that after an employee has expressed to his or her employer an intent to retire or withdraw from service, then between 12 months and 90 days prior to that employee's expected termination date, the employer may not make a payment to the employee that would have the effect of increasing the employee's reportable monthly earnings from that employer by more than 6% compared to the previous month unless the employer first discloses at an open meeting of the employer's governing board: the identity of the employee, the purpose and amount of the increase or payment, the proposed retirement date, the effect of the payment upon the employee's retirement annuity and the effect of the payment upon the employer's IMRF liability. These new requirements are effective immediately.

Local Government Consolidation

Two new laws affect local boards whose members are appointed by their county officials.

SB 2994 / Public Act 99-0634 (Cullerton, T. / McSweeney, D.) requires all counties to prepare a report for the General Assembly prior to January 1, 2017, which identifies the local public entities to which the county makes appointments. The report must include a description of the services provided by the local public entity, the total number of members of the local public entity's governing board (with an indication of any other authorities that also make appointments to that public entity), the process by which the local public entity was first created, an indication of whether or not the

local public entity levies a property tax (or, if there is no tax levy, an explanation of how the local public entity is funded), and an identification of any plans for consolidation or dissolution of the local public entity.

HB 229 / Public Act 99-0709 (Franks, J. / Bush, M.) extends the local government consolidation pilot program that was approved several years ago for DuPage County to Lake and McHenry counties. The new law will allow the county boards in those two additional counties to dissolve units of local government with appointed board members. **HB 229 / Public Act 99-0709 (Franks, J. / Bush, M.)** also incorporates an important change that removes conservation districts from the scope of the law, meaning that county boards do not have the authority to unilaterally dissolve conservation districts.

Other

SB 3005 / Public Act 99-0884 (Collins, J. / Cassidy, K.) makes changes to the criminal background provisions of the Park District Code by adjusting the lifetime employment ban for convictions for specified drug and other non-violent offenses to 7 years following the end of a sentence. These changes are effective as of August 22, 2016.

SB 2321 / Public Act 99-0699 (Syverson, D. / Welch, C.) establishes a new exemption to the DCFS daycare licensing rules for afterschool programs that serve only school-age children and youth, are operated by an entity organized to promote childhood learning, child and youth development, educational or recreational activities, or character-building, operate primarily during out-of-school time or at times when school is not normally in session and comply with several other specific health, safety, employment and training standards. To satisfy the requirements of the exemption, the program must also provide parents with written disclosure that the program is not regulated by licensing requirements, and obtain records showing specific contact information for the child and parents as well as emergency contact information and written authorization for medical care.

Although the new law is effective immediately, some of the criteria require administrative rules to be promulgated through the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) in the coming months.

SB 2896 / Public Act 99-0745 (Althoff, P. / Andrade, J.) is an IMRF initiative that relates to situations where retirees return to work with an IMRF employer and exceed the hourly threshold that triggers the requirement to re-enroll them in IMRF and suspend their retirement annuity. Under the new law, a participating IMRF employer that knowingly fails to notify the IMRF to suspend an annuity could be required to reimburse up to one-half of the total of any annuity payments made to the annuitant after the date the annuity should have been suspended. The reimbursement provisions would not apply if the annuitant returned to work for the employer for less than 12 months. The news also requires the IMRF to notify all annuitants of the new requirements and to develop and maintain a system to track annuitants who have returned to work.

Legal Symposium

These and other new laws impacting IAPD member agencies will be discussed in further detail along with other hot legal topics and developments at the IAPD Legal Symposium on November 3, 2016.

A woman with long dark hair in a ponytail is stretching outdoors. She is wearing a light purple tank top, black leggings, and a purple watch on her left wrist. She has white earbuds in her ears. She is leaning forward with her right hand on her right knee and her left hand on the ground. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting with a blurred green area.

Making Fitness More Accessible - Inside and Out

Over the past two years, the Huntley Park District has made significant investments to their fitness equipment inventory by upgrading the equipment in their Fitness Center as well as creating a new outdoor fitness park space. These projects, representing an investment of over \$150,000 in advancing wellness opportunities for the community, were both conceived and overseen by their former fitness supervisor, Bill Hepperle. These projects have not only increased the quality of the equipment available to the community, but also have provided additional accessibility to fitness opportunities accommodating a wider demographic.

By **Jeff Ryder**, Athletic & Fitness Manager, Huntley Park District



The Huntley Park District REC Center, located at 12015 Mill St. in Huntley, opened to the public in April of 2005. Located inside the REC Center is their 3,900 square foot Fitness Center. At the time it opened, a mixture of both new equipment and used equipment moved in from a previous smaller fitness area was put in place. Over the course of the first several years of operation this equipment filled the needs of the community and the membership. In 2014, it became apparent that an investment was going to need to be made to replace many of the equipment pieces, both due to the age of the equipment and to accommodate the needs of the growing community.

Early in the planning process for this equipment upgrade the need was identified to look at equipment lines that provided more ADA accessibility as the Huntley Park District works closely with the Northwest Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA) and Huntley School District 158 in providing facilities for special recreation programming. In addition to those two user groups, the community also has a large population of older active adults that have become loyal patrons to park district activities and facilities. The decision was made that the inclusion of as many ADA compliant pieces of equipment in this project would therefore accomplish two goals. First it would provide more access to fitness opportunities for all, including for individuals with disabilities, and it would open up the opportunity to use some of the district's ADA project funding to help make such a significant investment financially possible. Over the Memorial Day weekend in 2015, eight new Cybex ADA Total Access strength pieces, 4 other new Cybex strength pieces and 10 new Cybex ADA Total Access cardio pieces were installed in the REC Center Fitness Center to replace aging and outdated equipment at a total cost of approximately \$75,000.

Pleased with the successful implementation of the ADA equipment line to the Fitness Center, Hepperle set his sights on finding a way to provide even more access to fitness opportunities for the community. He set out to create a fitness space unlike any other in the area with the addition of an outdoor fitness park. According to Hepperle, "This project was a natural extension for the district after the inside of the park

district was renovated with ADA compliant equipment to ensure the servicing of every demographic type residing in Huntley and surrounding communities."

After researching both equipment and funding options, Hepperle selected the Greenfields outdoor fitness line and set out on applying for a grant to help fund the project. In late 2015, the Huntley Park District was awarded an \$8,000 grant by Greenfields to help fund the total \$80,000 cost of the project with the remainder of the funding coming from ADA and district capital funds.

The park consists of eight pieces of equipment, five of which are ADA accessible:

- Accessible Vertical (Shoulder) Press
- Accessible Lateral Pulldown
- Accessible Chest Press
- Accessible Combo Fly/Rear Deltoid Machine
- Accessible Hand Cycle
- 3-Way Static Combo (Sit-Up, Pull-Up, Dip)
- Leg Extension
- Leg Curl

After considering a couple different locations, a high visibility location was selected directly to the east of Huntley Park District's aquatic facility, Stingray Bay Family Aquatic Center. This location is at the heart of the district's main campus, which totals over 95 acres and is composed of Deicke Park, Warrington Park, and the REC Center. The specific site chosen is also adjacent to the walking/jogging trail that runs throughout this campus as well as next to three of the primary youth league baseball fields. With convenient parking located just to the north of the outdoor fitness park, the area can be used by those specifically wanting to do their workout outside, by walkers and joggers utilizing the adjacent trail, by parents while their child is at their baseball practice or game, and even those wanting to incorporate strength training along with some lap swimming at Stingray Bay. In addition, the outdoor fitness park has been incorporated into the district's group fitness classes, as it is utilized by Boot Camp classes, as well as a class specifically designed for the outdoor fitness park.

A vast majority of the outdoor fitness park project construction was completed in-house by our park department, headed by parks director, Paul Ostrander. Paul and his staff played a key role in ensuring the project was completed quickly and properly. They took great care during the entire process to ensure the correct ADA accommodations were met and the buildings were up to code. In addition to the fitness equipment, the area has a soft rubberized surface, drinking fountain with bottle filler, a sitting wall area for resting, and is almost entirely covered by three triangular shaped shade sails. It has also been fully landscaped and fits in seamlessly with the surrounding park space.

In addition to traditional brochure and web site information on the new park, a heavy social media marketing strategy was developed in which we posted frequent updates on the construction, running from the arrival of the crates of equipment on March 18th, right up until the completion of construction on June 7th. There were many positive comments and shares on our Facebook page. Some of the best comments in the build up to completion included, "We had a park like this in Tinley Park. Loved it. Was looking for a park like it out here and finally we will have one!" and "How cool is this??? Lucky Huntley residents!!"

On June 12, 2016 a ribbon cutting was held as part of the district's inaugural Come Alive Outside event, which promotes families to rediscover recreation opportunities that exist in our park facilities. With the official opening of the park, Huntley Park District Executive Director Thom Palmer has been one of the first to utilize the new outdoor fitness area, "The outdoor fitness equipment provides an opportunity for the walkers in the park to stop and get some upper body work in. I take advantage of the equipment myself".

The update to the Fitness Center inside the REC Center and the addition of the outdoor fitness park are just the most recent projects the Huntley Park District has undertaken to help meet their goal of providing "Recreation for Generations". Hepperle sums it up best with this observation, "There is nobody that cannot participate. It was a great opportunity to expand our horizons and open a park that can be utilized by any demographic from our community."



INNOVATION AND DISABILITY IN HUNTLEY

By John McGovern, *Recreation Accessibility Consultants*

"We had a vision for a park that would be different" said Thom Palmer, Executive Director of the Huntley Park District. "Our community meetings were a great opportunity to 'test' some of our own ideas. But more importantly, we listened to our residents. Two main take-aways from the resident meetings were that the playground be completely fenced in with gates at the two entry points so the children don't wonder off over the horizon, and plenty of adult seating because the kids will want to stay a long time so the adults might as well be comfortable."

Palmer is talking about Deicke Park, the gem of the Huntley Park District system. This 28 acre park on Route 47 has features you'll find elsewhere, such as tennis courts, basketball courts, picnic shelters, a walking path, and more. But it has something no other park has: a unique play environment designed with kids with disabilities in mind - the Deicke Discovery Zone.

The Deicke Discovery Zone opened in 2010. The site has a unitary rubber surface throughout, with concrete sidewalks that ring the play areas. It features imaginary play at a "barber shop" and the Huntley Dairy Mart. For math play, an abacus was installed. A composite structure looks like a fire truck, and a swaying school bus can be steered by kids on the bus. At the play railroad crossing within the playground, the chimes actually ring when the gates come down. "It is an amazing place, and use has surpassed our wildest dreams" said Palmer.

That's an understatement. The Discovery Zone bubbles over with sensory stimulation. Not too much though, and a child can choose how much to indulge in. Tara Burghart, editor and founder of GoWestYoungMom website, wrote about the Deicke Discovery Zone and said "At Discovery Zone, I was able to breathe easy, relax, and just enjoy how much fun she was having. I think we both had smiles on our face nearly the entire time!" To see GoWestYoungMom go to www.gowestyoungmom.com.

She is just one of many Deicke Discovery Zone fans. "We ask residents for feedback on our parks and Deicke Park and Deicke Discovery Zone regularly rate amongst our highest" said Palmer. "This park, and Deicke Discovery Zone, are here because of our residents' support."

In 2011, Huntley Park District completed an ADA access audit and transition plan, in partnership with Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC (RAC), one of the W-T Family of Companies. Shelley Zuniga, RAC Vice President, knows Deicke Park well. "This site is a great testament to what can be done when a park district adds a theme that includes people with disabilities to the planning of a park."

Huntley Park District is a partner agency in the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA), which provides therapeutic recreation services for children and adults with disabilities in Huntley, Marengo, Woodstock, Cary, Dundee Township, Barrington, Crystal Lake, Elgin, Hampshire, Harvard, Lake in the Hills, McHenry, and Wauconda. Palmer said "We were pleased to see some of the special recreation 5-8 levy used at this site, and it is available for visits by residents from all of the NISRA communities."

Deicke Park and the amazing Deicke Discovery Zone are on Route 47, just 3 miles north of I-90 on Huntley Road. It is worth the visit!



IAPD/IPRA
SOARING to
NEW HEIGHTS
CONFERENCE

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM
2017

IAPD
Illinois Association of Park Districts

ILLINOIS
ipra
PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION

January 19-21
Hilton Chicago

720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

ILparksconference.com

WELCOME



WELCOME AND GREETINGS!

As 2017 draws near, we are pleased to share some exciting changes to the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference, the most significant of which is our return to the historic Hilton Chicago. The Hilton Chicago is eager for attendees to rediscover this famous South Loop landmark. Its magnificent location overlooking Grant Park, Lake Michigan and the Museum Campus combined with an extensive, multi-million-dollar renovation guarantees an outstanding conference experience!

We have listened to your feedback and have researched the latest technology designed to make sure you get the most out of conference. We are excited to announce a state-of-the-art conference app from Gather Digital that offers an intuitive, reliable interface, enhanced security and premium features for a more engaging, user-friendly experience. Conference attendees will be able to download the app from the Apple store or Google Play for Android. Look for further announcements and more information in the coming months.

The conference planning committees have been diligently organizing the many details that go into creating a successful and memorable event. This year's conference includes a strong, multi-disciplinary program with more than 170 educational sessions and 18 pre-conference workshops. The conference will showcase an exciting array of social activities such as the Thursday night Welcome Social featuring *Brass From The Past* and the Saturday night Closing Social at the awe-inspiring Museum of Science and Industry. And, the Exhibit Hall will provide a highly interactive and engaging experience where attendees can gain valuable insights into the latest industry trends and learn about innovative products and services.

As one of the preeminent events for the park, recreation and conservation field, The IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference offers an outstanding educational and networking opportunity – one that is not to be missed! Mark your calendars now to join us **January 19-21, 2017!**

LILI KILBRIDGE

Commissioner
Hoffman Estates Park District
IAPD Conference Co-Chair

TOM HARTWIG, CPRP

Superintendent of Special Facilities
Oak Lawn Park District
IPRA Conference Co-Chair

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SCHEDULE - AT - A - GLANCE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

7:30 am – 5:00 pm	Conference Registration Open
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Pre-Conference Workshops (0.3 CEUs)
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Career Development Symposium (0.3 CEUs)
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Grand Opening of the Exhibit Hall
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Pre-Conference Workshops (0.3 CEUs)
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Professional Connection
9:00 pm – 12:00 am	Welcome Social with Brass From The Past

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

7:00 am – 5:00 pm	Conference Registration Open
8:15 am – 9:30 am	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Agency Showcase
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
9:45 am – 11:00 am	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Dedicated Hours
12:15 pm – 2:15 pm	All-Conference Awards Luncheon *
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
2:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Dessert in the Exhibit Hall
3:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	IPRA Annual Business Meeting
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Commissioners' Reception **
9:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Chairmen's Reception **

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

7:45 am – 12:00 pm	Conference Registration Open
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Keynote General Session with Steve Gilliland
10:15 am – 11:30 am	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
3:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Conference Sessions (0.1 CEUs)
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	IAPD Annual Business Meeting
7:15 pm – 10:30 pm	Closing Social at the Museum of Science and Industry*

* Ticketed Event

** By Invitation Only

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ACCESSIBILITY

Parking: Parking at the Hilton Chicago is accessible for persons with disabilities.

Restrooms: Public restrooms located throughout the lobby and meeting room floors of the Hilton Chicago and Renaissance Blackstone are accessible.

Meeting Rooms: All meeting rooms are accessible at the Hilton Chicago and the Renaissance Blackstone.

Restaurants: All restaurants are accessible at the Hilton Chicago and the Renaissance Blackstone.

Sleeping Rooms: The Hilton Chicago and the Renaissance Blackstone have ADA rooms available. These rooms have been designed for individuals with special needs. If you are in need of an accessible room, please be sure to notify the respective hotel when making your reservation.

A.D.A. AND SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the IAPD/IPRA Joint Conference Committee will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. Please indicate any special needs on your registration form or contact Leesa Johnson at IPRA at leesa@ilipra.org **no later than January 6, 2017**. If you have special needs regarding hotel accommodations, please contact the Hilton Chicago at (855) 760-0869 or the Renaissance Blackstone at (800) 468-3571. Hearing impaired individuals who require TTDs may dial 711 or call (800) 526-0844 and the Illinois Relay Center will transmit the message to IAPD or IPRA.

ADMISSION

Admission to the exhibit hall and all conference sessions require a name badge for the duration of the conference. Security guards will be stationed at the entrance to the exhibit hall and name badges will be checked at all conference sessions. Individuals without a name badge will be required to register at Conference Registration.



A spirited competition spotlighting bright ideas exhibited by park, recreation and conservation agencies

This professionally judged competition recognizes Illinois agencies for their marketing and communication efforts ranging from print to multimedia.

The showcase includes two divisions and twelve categories in which to enter. Agencies may choose to enter either the Overall Agency Showcase Division or the Individual Category Division. Also, all delegates will receive a ballot at registration for the *People's Choice Award* to vote for their favorite agency's display.

Division 1: Overall Agency Showcase

Your agency submits in eight of the twelve individual categories and creates a tabletop display that showcases how your marketing efforts represent your agency as a whole. Scores from each category as well as the display are compiled to determine the overall winners. The eight categories that you select will be eligible for recognition in the individual category division. First, second, and third place awarded in the Overall Showcase division.

Division 2: Individual Category

This division allows you to select up to four categories below to enter your work for the judges to critique. There will be one outstanding submission recognized in each category.

Categories

- Brochure Series
- Electronic Communication
- Integrated Photography
- Large Format Marketing
- Logo Design
- Marketing Campaign
- Media Campaign
- Paid Advertisement
- Print Communication
- Promotional Items - *NEW!*
- Social Media Campaign
- Web Content

Don't miss this chance to spotlight your agency's marketing and communication materials! **Registration deadline is Friday, December 2, 2016**. Space is limited so sign up today!

For more information on the Agency Showcase competition, please visit ilparksconference.com/events. Or if you have questions contact Jessica Cannaday at jcannaday@obparks.org.

Proudly brought to you by IPRA and IAPD.

ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS LUNCHEON

International Ballroom, Second Floor

Delegates who register for the "Full Package" will receive a ticket for this event. Additional tickets may be purchased through your registration or onsite. Please join us as we recognize and honor the leaders and volunteers of park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation and special recreation agencies.

ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS LUNCHEON PREFERRED AGENCY SEATING (INCLUDES LEGISLATOR TABLES!)

DEADLINE: Monday, January 9, 2017

Preferred Agency Seating is available for delegates from the same agency/organization (**and legislators**) who wish to be seated together at a table during the Friday, All-Conference Awards Luncheon. An agency that opts to participate must indicate so on the registration form on page 46 or when registering online. There is a \$50 nonrefundable fee (per agency) to participate, which must be paid for when registering for the conference. **Legislator preferred seating is reserved through this process as well.** The person who is the designated agency contact will receive an email with additional details and instructions on the preferred seating process. Agency contacts will be responsible for notifying those seated at their table(s) of the table assignment(s). After **January 9, 2017**, preferred agency seating requests WILL NOT be accepted, and **there will be no onsite requests taken.**

NOTE: IAPD/IPRA reserves the right to seat multiple agencies at a table in order to accommodate all requests. Remember to register early as preferred agency seating requests will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Non-reserved tables for open general seating will be noted with a balloon.

EVENT LOCATIONS

Agency Showcase: Salon B, Lower Level

All-Conference Awards Luncheon: International Ballroom, Second Floor

Closing Social: Museum of Science and Industry

Conference Headquarters: Mobleby Room, Lower Level

Conference Pre-Conference Workshops and Sessions: Throughout the hotel

Conference Registration: 8th Street Entrance Registration Counters, Lobby Level

Exhibit Hall: Salons A, C and D, Lower Level

Silent Auction: Salon B, Lower Level

Welcome Social: International Ballroom, Second Floor

ANNUAL MEETINGS FOR IAPD AND IPRA

Grand Ballroom, Second Floor

The Illinois Park and Recreation Association's (IPRA) Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, January 20 at 5:00 pm. The Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 21 at 3:30 pm.

The associations have staggered their annual meetings in order to accommodate elected officials and professionals who would like to attend both meetings.

COMMISSIONERS' RECEPTION

Attention all IAPD members!

Please join us on Friday, January 20 at 5:00 pm. This reception will be an excellent opportunity for commissioners to exchange ideas, network and socialize. The IAPD board and staff will be present to answer questions and visit with commissioners. Invitations will be sent in the future.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs)

- Sessions scheduled for 75 minutes award 0.1 CEUs.
- Pre-conference workshops scheduled for three hours award 0.3 CEUs.
- No additional CEU fees for Friday and Saturday apply; **CEUs for pre-conference workshops will be charged at \$5 per workshop.**
- If you would like to earn CEUs, **you must request them with your conference registration.** See page 46.
- CEU coupons will be included with your registration materials **only if you request CEUs with your conference registration.**

CEU Procedures:

1. As you enter a session/workshop, the Moderator will stamp your CEU coupon with a validation stamp. You must keep this coupon until the end of the session/workshop. All coupons will be collected as you exit.
2. Legibly write the session/workshop number and title on your CEU coupon where indicated.
3. CEU coupons **will not** be stamped after the first 15 minutes and will not be collected until the conclusion of the session/workshop. You must attend the entire session/workshop to earn CEUs.
4. CEUs will not be awarded if your coupon does not have the validation stamp.
5. Please do not write over the barcode on the coupon; these are scanned to award your CEUs.
6. An email from CTE, our conference registration company, will be sent to the email address connected with your registration approximately four weeks after conference. This email will contain a link to your CEU transcript. No hard copies will be distributed.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE):

- CLEs are educational credits that attorneys elect to earn by attending educational offerings certified by the Supreme Court of Illinois.
- Sessions scheduled for 75 minutes award 1.0 CLE.
- If you would like to apply for CLEs, you must register and pay for them with your conference registration. See page 46.
- Three different CLE packages are offered:
 - (3) CLEs is \$45 plus registration
 - (4) CLEs is \$60 plus registration
 - (8) CLEs is \$120 plus registration
- CLE coupons will be included with your registration materials **only if you request and purchase CLEs with your conference registration**. If you decide that you want CLEs after you have registered for the conference, you may add them to your registration package up until January 9, 2017. After that date, you must register and pay onsite at conference registration.

CLE Procedures:

1. As you enter a session/workshop, the Moderator will stamp your CLE coupon with a validation stamp. You must keep this coupon until the end of the session/workshop. All CLE coupons will be collected as you exit at the conclusion of the session/workshop.
2. There will be an attendance record at the entrance of each session/workshop where you must print and sign your name and provide your Attorney Registration Number.
3. Legibly write the session/workshop number and title on your CLE coupon where indicated.
4. CLE coupons will not be stamped after the first 15 minutes and will not be collected until the conclusion of the session/workshop. You must attend the entire session/workshop to earn CLEs.
5. When departing the session, you will hand in your stamped CLE coupon to the Moderator in exchange for your certificate of attendance. You will maintain your certificate of attendance within your records as required by the MCLE Rules.
6. Please note that not all sessions are eligible for CLE credits. Sessions/workshops that are eligible for CLE credits will be noted in the final conference brochure. A minimum of 15 CLEs will be offered at the conference; attorneys will be eligible to earn up to 8 CLE credits.

EXCEPTIONAL WORKPLACE AWARD 2016

Park and Recreation agencies applying for the 2016 Exceptional Workplace Award must complete an online survey (the link to the survey will be emailed to you once you complete the registration form). It includes a series of 46 questions, and each question must be answered. A point value has been assigned to each question, which the committee will use when your questions are being reviewed and tallied. Once the survey has been reviewed, if the committee feels that there is a need for documentation, your agency will be notified prior to the final decision. **Surveys must be completed by October 10, 2016.**

If the park and recreation agency meets the award criteria, the recognition as an IPRA Exceptional Workplace is five years. Park and recreation agencies may re-apply five years after receiving the IPRA Exceptional Workplace award for subsequent consideration. If a park and recreation agency does NOT meet the minimum award requirements during their application year, they may re-apply the following year at no additional cost.

Agencies that meet the criteria will receive the Exceptional Workplace Award at the 2017 IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference, during the IPRA business meeting.

Additional questions please contact Kelly Carbon at kcarbon@elkgroveparks.org.

EXHIBIT HALL INFORMATION

The exhibit hall will be open on Thursday and Friday, with **dedicated hours** on Friday.

Come visit more than 300 commercial manufacturers, distributors, designers and educational booths. The exhibits will showcase the newest equipment, supplies, ideas and services available to park, recreation, forest preserve, conservation and therapeutic agencies. Plan to spend several hours in the exhibit hall viewing the displays and visiting with exhibitors. All exhibits will be located in Salons A, C and D, on the lower level.

Each registered delegate will have multiple opportunities to win great prizes. Drawings will take place throughout the day Thursday and Friday. Entry blanks will be in the registration materials that you must pick up at Conference Registration. You must be present to win. Rules and regulations will apply.

The IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference has the largest exhibit hall of any state park and recreation conference in the country. Be sure to visit!

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Thursday, January 19:

1:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Grand Opening

Friday, January 20:

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

11:00 am – 12:00 pm (*dedicated hours*)

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm (*dedicated hours*)



HOUSING INFORMATION

Hilton Chicago (Host Hotel)
720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Phone 855/760-0869 or 312/922-4400
Group Code PRK
Rates \$119 Single/Double; \$129 Triple; \$139 Quad
Note: Upgrade surcharges may apply to guarantee a specific room type.

Renaissance Blackstone (Overflow Hotel)
636 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Phone 800/468-3571 or 312/447-0955
Group Code Reference IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference when making a reservation by phone.
Rates \$119 Single/Double

For online reservations for either the Hilton Chicago or Blackstone Renaissance, visit ILparksconference.com and click on the "About" tab then "Housing and Parking" for the appropriate links.

Rooms are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

- The cut-off date for reservations at the Hilton is **January 3, 2017**. The cut-off date for reservations at the Renaissance Blackstone is **December 27, 2016**. Reservations made after these dates may pay a higher rate and are subject to availability.
- One (1) night's room and tax advance deposit by check or credit card must accompany each reservation. This deposit is fully refundable before December 16, 2016. After December 16, 2016, there will be no refunds for cancelled rooms. The Joint Conference Committee implemented this policy in 1999 due to the high rate of rooms cancelled at the last minute.

Suites: IAPD member agencies or IPRA members interested in reserving a suite must first contact Leesa Johnson at IPRA (leesa@ilipra.org). Once IPRA has given approval, you will be put in contact with the Hilton directly.

Exhibitors interested in reserving a suite must first contact Sue Triphahn at IAPD (striphahn@ilparks.org). Once IAPD has given approval, you will be put in contact with the Hilton directly.

MOBILE APP

Go mobile at the conference and bring the entire conference program to your fingertips, for easy access on the go. Get session alerts, personalize your schedule, and view interactive maps, session evaluations, speaker information and more with the dynamic, new conference mobile app powered by Gather Digital. Search IAPD/IPRA in the Apple App Store or Google Play for Android and download the app today!

PARKING

Delegates who are registered guests at the Hilton Chicago will receive a discounted daily parking rate of \$20 for self-parking and \$30 for valet parking. No in/out privileges will be allowed. Valet parking at the Renaissance Blackstone is available for guests at a rate of \$40.20/daily or \$9.60-\$16.80/hourly; self-parking is not available. Self-parking nearby in public lots begins at \$25 per night.

Delegates not staying at the hotels can park in any of the downtown garages at regular rates. Additional parking in the area can be viewed at www.chicagoparkingmap.com.

All delegates are encouraged to take public transportation.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND IMPACT THE FUTURE!

Students: Do you want an opportunity to attend the All-Conference Awards Luncheon at no additional cost? Register in advance (see page 46), to join over 1,500 park and recreation professionals! Event includes lunch, networking and celebrating the accomplishments of those in the industry.

Professionals/Commissioners: Do you want to donate a seat at your table(s) to a student at no additional cost? Register in advance (see page 46), to be matched with a student to be your guest at the All-Conference Awards Luncheon... include them in your table reservation and give them a priceless gift – your time!

Students will be randomly assigned with professionals/commissioners. Those who register will receive detailed instructions in early January.





A NEW ERA BEGINS

WITH THE COMPLETION OF A \$150M REVITALIZATION

Hilton Chicago looks forward to welcoming you back, to where classic meets cool, during the ***IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference*** in 2017 & 2018.

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- New carpeting & soft goods throughout meeting and public space
- 13 residentially inspired specialty suites as well as a \$1.8M renovation of the **Conrad Hilton Suite**, the Midwest's largest suite.
- **720 South Bar + Grill**, your Libation + Flights | Small Plates + Dining Staples destination
- **Herb N' Kitchen**, your on-the-go urban market offering Starbucks coffee, bakers' confections and artisan salads & sandwiches
- A new **Kitty O'Sheas** to enjoy Irish farm to fork fare, tap to pint favorites and live entertainment
- Tech area, keeping you connected with complimentary WiFi access & charging stations in the **720 South Lounge**
- The new **Grand Tradition Hall**, celebrating the history of this legendary Chicago landmark with activation stations

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH YOU IN MIND



POLICY ON CHILDREN

To preserve a professional business environment and ensure a quality educational atmosphere at the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference, no one under the age of 18 will be allowed to participate in pre-conference workshops, conference sessions, the welcome social and the exhibit hall. An exception will be made if the person is a speaker or a registered full- or part-time college or university student, and is attending the conference for the purpose of professional development and networking opportunities. The closing social will be open to children, however.

POLICY ON MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS

The following persons will be allowed to register at the member rate:

- Members of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association in current standing through 12/31/17. **IPRA memberships not renewed for 2017 will be assessed the difference between the member and non-member conference registration fees upon their check-in onsite at Conference Registration.**
- Commissioners/park board members, attorneys, board treasurers and board secretaries of agencies that are members of the Illinois Association of Park Districts.
- A maximum of six **support** staff from IAPD member agencies (**"Support staff" is defined as clerical and maintenance personnel only.**)

Requests from other persons or agencies asking for member rates will be presented to the Joint Conference Committee for approval prior to conference.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Registration Deadline Monday, December 5, 2016

Registration Deadline Monday, January 9, 2017

Registration Methods:

- Online at ilparksconference.com to save \$25 per registration package; online registration **must be** accompanied by credit card for payment.
- Complete the Advance Registration Form and mail it with credit card or check to 2017 IAPD/IPRA CONFERENCE, P.O. Box 756, Park Ridge, IL 60068
- Complete the Registration Form and fax it with credit card information to 847-957-4255; faxed registrations **must be** accompanied by credit card for payment.

Registration Information:

- Faxed, mailed and online registrations will be accepted until January 9, 2017. Register online at ilparksconference.com for a \$25 per registration package discount!
- **IAPD/IPRA will not invoice agencies or individuals for conference registrations.**
- Each registered delegate will receive their name badge, event tickets and CEU coupons (if applicable) onsite at conference.
- After registering you will receive an email confirmation with a bar code – **please bring this with you to conference.** This confirmation as well as a photo ID will be required to pick up your registration materials.
- Once onsite there will be a \$5 charge to reprint your name badge and **EVENT TICKETS WILL NOT BE REPRINTED.** **You must purchase new tickets at the current onsite price in order to attend any ticketed events.**
- You will not be permitted into pre-conference workshops, the exhibit hall or conference sessions without the proper name badge.

On-site Registration Hours:

- Thursday, January 19 7:30 am – 5:00 pm
- Friday, January 20 7:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Saturday, January 21 7:45 am – 12:00 pm

Registration Questions?

Contact CTE, our conference registration company, at either ilparks2017@cteusa.com or 847-957-4255.



GENERAL INFORMATION



SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

The Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) have instituted a Satisfaction Guaranteed Policy for the Thursday pre-conference workshops. IAPD and IPRA make every effort to ensure quality programs for participants. However, if a participant is not fully satisfied with the content of the workshop, he or she may request and receive a 100% refund of the workshop fee. A participant who wishes to request a refund for a pre-conference workshop must do so no later than the end of the workshop in question. Forms will be available at Conference Registration. Any CEUs offered will be forfeited when a refund is made. Refunds will only be made payable to the originator of the check or credit card for the workshop registration. Look for the Satisfaction Guaranteed symbols next to these workshops.

SILENT AUCTION

Salon B, Lower Level

The Illinois Park and Recreation Foundation (IPRF) provides resources to park and recreation agencies and professionals statewide.

Part of our commitment to the profession is ensuring that future and current park and recreation professionals have the tools they need to be successful. Each year, we hold a Silent Auction at the *IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference* to provide support and funding for educational programming, research that will benefit the Illinois Park and Recreation Association and its members, and funding support for professional development for students studying parks and recreation within Illinois.

If you would like to make a donation or need more information, please contact Heather Weishaar at IPRA at heather@ilipra.org.

SPECIAL DIETS/ACCOMMODATIONS

Persons with special needs may make arrangements by notifying Leesa Johnson at IPRA at leesa@ilipra.org **no later than January 6, 2017**.

SPECIAL SESSION (IN-POOL)

Saturday, January 21

10:15 am – 11:30 am

#628 – Lifeguard Training Drills

Bring your suit and towel, we're taking over the pool at the Hilton to demonstrate and practice lifeguard training drills. This special session, geared for lifeguards and those who train and work with lifeguards, will provide participants the opportunity to practice drills and learn techniques to keep training and in-services fun and engaging for new and veteran lifeguards.

Note: Due to the pool capacity limits, pre-registration is required for this session. See page 46 of the registration form.



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SPOUSE/GUEST PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION

All spouses or guests must register in order to participate in the conference, visit the exhibit hall and attend special programs. **Spouses or guests must have no affiliation with or be employed by a park and recreation agency.** Registration will include a name badge for admission to the Exhibit Hall, Welcome Social on Thursday, conference sessions on Friday and Saturday and the Keynote General Session on Saturday. Tickets for the All-Conference Awards Luncheon and the Closing Social on Saturday evening will be available for purchase. See page 46 for registration.

STUDENT EVENTS

Thursday, January 19

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Professional Connection

You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to network with professionals in the field. The Professional Connection provides a relaxed, social atmosphere and an informal setting for talking with and getting to know professionals currently working in your area of interest. Everyone who attends will enjoy complimentary pizza and soda. And, be sure to arrive early and fill out your raffle ticket for great prizes! See page 46 for registration.

Friday, January 20

9:45 am – 11:00 am

#801 – Mock Interviews/Resume Review

The Mock Interviews/Resume Review offers students the opportunity to practice and improve their interviewing skills, by being paired by a professional who will engage them in a simulated interview experience. At the conclusion of the interview, students will receive constructive feedback and advice that will help them be more prepared and to do well in a real life interview. See page 46 for registration.

12:15 pm – 2:15 pm

All-Conference Awards Luncheon

Register at no additional cost, to join the celebration and to network with established professionals. See page 46 of the registration form.

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

#17 – Resume Writing and Interview Tips

Are you having a hard time getting interviews for the jobs you really want? Have you gotten an interview but known walking out that the interview did not go the way you hoped? This session will help you get those interviews by showing you how to write a proper cover letter and resume. Once you get that interview, what do you do to make sure it goes as well as it can? We will discuss tips on how to interview better and things you should and should not do during the interview. By the end of this session, you will know how to become a more attractive candidate for potential employers because of the information you learned.

GENERAL INFORMATION

VOLUNTEERS... CALLING ALL PROFESSIONALS AND COMMISSIONERS!

We are recruiting volunteers for Conference Registration and Conference Headquarters. If you are interested and have an hour or two to spare during conference, please send an email to the following people and include the day(s)/time(s) you are available.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

CONTACT: Alan Howard (ahoward@ilparks.org)

Hours of Operation:

Thursday, January 19 7:30 am – 5:00 pm
Friday, January 20 7:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday, January 21 7:45 am – 12:00 pm

CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS

CONTACT: Heather Weishaar (heather@ilipra.org)

Hours of Operation:

Thursday, January 19 7:30 am – 5:00 pm
Friday, January 20 7:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday, January 21 8:15 am – 5:00 pm

WHAT TO WEAR

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening:	Casual business attire
Thursday Welcome Social:	Casual attire
Friday All-Conference Awards Luncheon:	Business attire
Saturday Closing Social:	Dressy-casual attire

AND... DON'T FORGET TO GO GREEN AT CONFERENCE AND EVERY DAY!

IPRA's Environmental Committee would like to remind you that it is **Easy to Be Green!**



It's easy to be green with online registration!

Visit the conference Web site at ilparksconference.com and click on the Registration and Hotel Information link. You will save \$25 per registration package as an added bonus for registering online!

IAPD and IPRA are proud of their partnership with the Hilton Chicago and are committed to minimizing the environmental impact of the conference through increased education and awareness of environmental initiatives throughout the hotel. Please support the Hilton's efforts and make a difference during your time at conference.

- Participate in the *Linen Reuse Program*.
- Turn off your lights and television every time you leave your room.
- Take any recyclable materials (paper, empty bottles/cans, aluminum, etc.) and deposit them in the commingled recycling bins located throughout the hotel.



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PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS - MORNING

All pre-conference workshops award 0.3 CEUs, pending approval. Pre-registration is mandatory. Register online at ILparksconference.com or see page 45.

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

10 The Confidence Quadrant™: Learn to Embrace Success and Failure

Topic Track: Leadership/Management

Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Darren Fisher, Lead Strategist, Darren Fisher Consulting

The Confidence Quadrant™ examines how two individuals can have the same experience, yet take away entirely different results. Some, come away more confident while others do not. Some fail and adapt, while others keep making the same mistakes over and over again. Learn how to improve your performance by examining your own attitude towards success and failure. In this workshop, Darren will teach you how to gain confidence for positive risk-taking by focusing on the “wins”. He will also show the importance of owning our losses – an approach that allows us to realign our goals, attain positive achievement, and begin crushing it in all we do!

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) learn the four Confidence Quadrant™ types and the performance impact of each type; 2) learn why some people embrace success and others do not; 3) learn why some embrace failure and others do not; 4) learn the power of success and failure to pursue greatness; and 5) learn how confidence and adaptability are the keys to sustained achievement.

101 In Search of Service Excellence

Topic Track: Leadership/Management

Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Eileen Soisson, President, The Meeting Institute

This customer service workshop will define customer service, who our customers are and why that even matters within the world of recreation and parks. Discussion around current day customer service programs will allow participants the opportunity to learn from other professionals about how they offer customer service training, hold people accountable and recognize accomplishments within such programs. We will identify barriers that exist in that search of service excellence and discuss possible solutions and action plans. Participants will leave this session with tangible ideas to improve the level of customer service at their recreational workplaces.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) define customer service and discuss current customer service programs that exist within various recreational agencies; 2) identify current barriers to achieving service excellence, share best practices and provide specific examples of service excellence through group discussion and reporting out of shared ideas.

201 Calling All Parkies

Topic Track: Parks/Natural Resources

Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Barry Albach, Park Specialist 3/Safety Instructor; and Phil Graf, President, Graf Tree Care

This workshop is for Parkies who are in field-level, mid-supervisory and supervisory level positions. It will cover a couple of special interest topics that will help parks maintenance professionals be able to succeed in their jobs. The first topic of discussion will include basic ballfield maintenance. Attendees will learn about the tools, equipment and techniques necessary for keeping ballfields safe and in top condition. The second topic of discussion will focus on the value and process of creating a positive work environment. The presenter will demonstrate specific steps one can take to inspire, motivate and transform their workplace into a more positive and uplifting environment.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) learn how to keep ballfields safe, looking good, and fun for all park patrons; 2) be able to identify characteristics of both good and bad work environments, and create a strategic plan to begin the transformation into a positive work environment.

301 Breaking The Barriers To Leadership Success

Topic Track: Leadership/Management

Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Mike Patterson, President, On Track Leadership, Inc.

Breaking The Barriers to success is an interactive workshop where participants understand the concept of comfort zones and how they hold us back from reaching our potential. This is a personal leadership workshop that allows participants to learn to first lead themselves so they can lead others more effectively.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) identify top goals for success; 2) create a written plan to execute the top goals identified.

401 Leadership Toolbelt: When to Move and When to Stay Put

Topic Track: Leadership/Management

Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Kevin E. O'Connor, CSP, Professional Speaker and Consultant, Kevin E. O'Connor & Associates, Ltd.

Leaders are always deciding. Often times, sometimes too often, these leaders react instead of respond; judge instead of understand; and give advice instead of pique curiosity. During this workshop, we will review the essential and fundamental tools that go into a sound decision making process.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) effectively account for and adapt to different personalities and leadership styles in order to work more effectively with bosses, boards, employees and contractors; 2) select a time-tested strategy from among a mix of approaches to work with anyone.





9:00 am - 12:00 pm (continued)

501 SNAPSHOTS to SUCCESS: Living Life One Frame at a Time

Topic Track: Therapeutic Recreation
Registration Fee: \$75
Speaker(s): Lori Klinka, Professional Speaker, Dramatic Impact

Our life is made up of snapshots, significant moments which give us meaning. As park and recreation professionals you're moving at the speed of life and you may feel stressed or overwhelmed. To be more productive and achieve better results it's important to examine your expectations and shift your perspective.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) increase their productivity at work and feel energized; 2) improve their relationships with colleagues and members.

601 Manage Your Facility for Success with a 30-Day Plan

Topic Track: Marketing/PR
Registration Fee: \$75
Speaker(s): Mark Davis, CEO, CMS International

In this hands-on, interactive workshop participants will complete a 30-day game plan to improve the success level of their facility. Attendees will walk away with proven techniques to dramatically increase their effectiveness in all aspects of their center.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) learn proven systems to achieve the maximum potential for their facility; 2) complete an evaluation that will set them on a 30-day plan for success; and 3) learn how to market, sell and manage with proven systems that can be easily implemented and put them on the path to success today.

901 Search Optimization Masterclass: How to Rank High in Google

Topic Track: Marketing/PR
Registration Fee: \$75
Speaker(s): Andy Crestodina, President, Orbit Media

From researching keywords to ranking high, this is a complete course on search engine optimization. This extended workshop focuses on the specific actions that drive the rankings and targeted traffic. What are the biggest mistakes that website owners make? Does duplicate content really hurt your rankings? What are the most important search ranking factors? What actions give you a durable advantage? Which tools are truly useful? Which are free? How is SEO ROI measured? We're going to cover every step in the process for outranking your competitors. Once finished, you'll never look at webpages the same again.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) discover the phrases that your audience is using to look for you; 2) align pages with those phrases to increase your relevance.

1001 Bring Your Brave Face, We're Gonna Talk Race

Topic Track: Leadership/Management
Registration Fee: \$75
Speaker(s): Denise Barreto, Managing Partner, Relationships Matter Now, LLC; and Lonette Hall, Consultant, University Park, Parks & Recreation

21st century leadership requires frank and brave discussion about tough topics. The United States has come to a place in its history where we have to decide who we will be moving forward and that affects our industry as well. Through a series of facilitated discussions and team exercises, we peel back and understand the complexity surrounding discussions of race, diversity and inclusion in parks and recreation. We will quickly create a safe space to have a frank discussion about these tough and sensitive topics, and help build empathetic language skills that attendees can take back to their respective agencies.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) learn definitions of some hot terms and discuss current race relations climate in the US and how it affects us all; 2) develop language techniques to handle tough conversations around race diversity and inclusion.





1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Career Development Symposium

Registration Fee: \$89
Speaker: James Officer



About the Speaker

For 20 years James Officer has been coaching, motivating, and teaching others to maximize their potential in their personal and professional lives. James has been a guest speaker for the Rockefeller Institute, the NAACP, Kraft Foods, and several federal agencies. Locally, James has conducted workshops and guest lectured at Purdue University and Indiana State University. He is a member of Class 30 Stanley K. Lacy Leadership Series. James was voted the “Highest Award Winner” by the Dale Carnegie Personal Development Institute and was named among the “Who’s Who 2009” in Indianapolis. James received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautic Technology and a Masters of Public Administration from Indiana State University.

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
Registration/Check-In

YOU MUST GO TO CONFERENCE REGISTRATION, LOCATED ON THE MAIN LEVEL, 8TH ST. ENTRANCE.

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm*
Developing Emotional Intelligence

There's a lot of buzz centered around emotional intelligence in the workplace right now and with good reason. Cutting-edge research into emotional intelligence has shown it plays a critical role in higher productivity, performance and job satisfaction. People who have a high level of emotional intelligence are more confident, more capable and earn greater respect from their colleagues. They are also better able to stay calm, flexible and focused when workplace crises hit and panic threatens to set in.

What exactly is emotional intelligence? Quite simply, emotional intelligence is a set of competencies that enhance your ability to relate positively to others. People with high emotional intelligence are adept at using empathy and constructive communication to create a collaborative, cooperative work environment. They naturally relate well to others, are able to accomplish more through encouragement and persuasion, and excel at inspiring, guiding and leading others to achieve their best work. As performers, they tend to be flexible, adaptive, self-motivated and confident.

By attending this workshop you will:

- Understand the key characteristics of emotional intelligence
- Determine your current level of emotional intelligence
- Learn how your right brain and left brain work together – and against each other – to affect your emotional reactions
- Gain self-awareness: the first key step in developing a higher EQ
- Understand how leadership and emotional intelligence are related
- Learn the undeniable benefits of improved emotional intelligence
- Learn how to interact, communicate and collaborate successfully with all types of people
- Learn ways to use EQ for team-building

Boost your emotional intelligence, enhance your workplace relationships, and turbo charge your career! Register Now!

** Includes a 30-minute refreshment break*

4:30 pm
Tour the Exhibit Hall, Salons A, C and D, Lower Level.



PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS - AFTERNOON

All pre-conference workshops award 0.3 CEUs, pending approval. Pre-registration is mandatory. Register online at ILparksconference.com or see page 45.

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

11 How to Find Your WOW, NOW!

Topic Track: Leadership/Management
Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Ben Dooley, Master Certified Coach, BeDo Coaching

Discover how to tap into your leadership presence like no one else and become *compelling, engaging, attractive and irresistible*. These simple, yet powerful, five words will reveal your personal power and open the door to high productivity and high positivity in an interactive and fun workshop that incorporates tigers, potato salad and your cell phone into the experience. The bottom line is it's not just what you know, but how you show up. And when you are confident in yourself, you are able to access your skills, techniques, strategies and training much more powerfully.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) experience deep insight into their personal power and learn how to apply that knowledge to their leadership, job performance, personal and professional relationship and more; 2) discover the secret formula to creating deep and unshakable confidence allowing them to feel more empowered in their teamwork and management.

102 Leading Change

Topic Track: Leadership/Management

Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Eileen Soisson, President, The Meeting Institute

Change is the only constant that we have and that is no different in the parks and recreation profession. This workshop will address current day changes that recreation leaders are experiencing and what can be done to address such a movement of change. Attitudes and accountability will be two main action items to deal with change and create momentum in your next change movement. Group discussion, recommended reading list and resources will be shared with all participants.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) identify current changes affecting parks and recreation professionals and acknowledge the role attitude plays in responding to change; 2) be challenged to tap into personal accountability through better choices, questions and behaviors that come from change.

302 How to Reduce Unemployment Costs for the Agency

Topic Track: HR/Risk Management

Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Carol Gabrielsen, Owner, Unemployment Consultants, Inc.

Learn how to navigate around the complex and sometimes confusing world of unemployment. In this workshop, the presenter will discuss areas of Unemployment Law such as voluntary leave, discharge for misconduct, gross negligence, refusal of work, availability for work, and method of payment of unemployment costs. With each section of the law, participants will learn what is needed to secure a disqualification. The presenter will also discuss how the wording on warnings and termination letters effect the disqualification of benefits and how to determine the method of payment of your agency.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) understand what paperwork is needed to deny benefits when an employee voluntarily quits, is discharged for violation of policy, discharged for gross negligence, refused work, or is not able and available for work; 2) how to determine the most cost effective method of payment of the unemployment costs for the employer.

304 Cyber Security: How Secure is Your District?

Topic Track: Finance/IT

Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Todd Rowe and Ken Sullivan, Attorneys, Tressler LLP

With cyber security attacks to businesses and government on the rise, how safe is your park district? In this workshop, the presenters will examine common security threats to a park district's information technology system, and the impacts of a breach on the agency, and to their employees and patrons. The presenters will discuss best practices for addressing these threats and responding to security breach incidents. Legal and practical advice for risk management using real life examples will be included.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) learn the latest developments in the cyber security legal landscape, including the latest threats, scams, and other schemes being utilized to target your district's information technology systems; 2) be able to identify cyber security red flags and how to properly respond in the event of a breach; 3) implement training and other preventative measures to minimize the risk of security breaches and other attacks.

402 Moving On Up: Your Resume and Experience Are Not Enough

Topic Track: Leadership/Management

Registration Fee: \$75

Speaker(s): Kevin E. O'Connor, CSP, Professional Speaker and Consultant, Kevin E. O'Connor & Associates, Ltd.

Whether being promoted in your own organization or deciding to move on, the essentials of your next job do not reside in your resume. The opportunities you'll find are based how your resume is read! The psychology of the resume reader will be front and center during this workshop. The presenter will also discuss two little-known, and little-used techniques that will make you the one and only inevitable choice and help you secure your next job.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) learn how to develop an effective profile using techniques that attract resume readers and job interviewers; 2) develop a strategic approach for managing and advancing their career.



1:30 pm - 4:30 pm (continued)

602
Creating A Dynamic Training Team – From Hiring to Selling

Topic Track: Leadership/Management
Registration Fee: \$75
Speaker(s): Adrienne Gabel, Health & Fitness Manager, Barrington Park District; and John Chase, Fitness Manager, Bolingbrook Park District

This workshop will cover a variety of topics aimed at helping personal training (PT) managers improve their operational processes, increase productivity, and effectively hire, manage and develop their teams. Discussions will include: 1) the overall process of hiring personal trainers, including what to look for and how to analyze the trainers' psyche for optimal new hire; 2) coaching techniques and simple "how to's" for management staff to drive productivity; 3) performance improvement plans, execution and follow up; and 4) optimizing "floor time".

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) leave with role-play scenarios, and adaptable scripts for sales, problem solving and red flags to hiring; 2) gain confidence in running their PT Teams and be able to adapt learning points to almost any atmosphere.

604
Park Properties Old and New: Pre-Conference Tour (Offsite)

Topic Track: Facilities
Registration Fee: \$75
Speaker(s): Julia Bachrach, Planning Supervisor and Michael Fus, Preservation Architect, Chicago Park District

This pre-conference tour explores new facilities that respond to contemporary needs, as well as significant historic Chicago Park buildings that have been preserved, restored or revitalized. This year, the tour will highlight the 606, an exciting new park trail system. The Chicago Park District worked with the City of Chicago, Trust for Public Land and community organizations to transform the old Bloomingdale railroad right-of-way into an innovative green space. The tour will also include nearby historic Palmer Square with a playground inspired by the beloved story The Velveteen Rabbit. Historic field houses at Blackhawk and Kelvyn Parks will also be featured.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) learn about how an innovative trail system can be planned, programmed, and designed, and how this type of resource can positively impact surrounding communities; 2) learn about how historic park buildings have been rehabilitated to support a broad array of programs and activities.

902
Marketing the Fitness Business in the Year 2017

Topic Track: Marketing/PR
Registration Fee: \$75
Speaker(s): Mark Davis, CEO, CMS International

Participants of this workshop will learn the secrets of marketing to the fitness public in the year 2017. Simple, yet effective strategies will be shared, and attendees will have the opportunity to create their own marketing plan that can be implemented at their facility right away.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) learn to successfully market the fitness business; 2) walk away with a plan to market in the coming 12 months.

1002
The Leader in You – What is LWT?

Topic Track: Leadership/Management
Registration Fee: \$75
Speaker(s): Dr. Sean Bailey, CEO & President, BCG – North American Corporation

What is LWT? Leadership is no longer about position, but passion. It's no longer about image, but impact. This is Leadership 2.0 and all who participate in this leadership workshop will have the opportunity to put into practice actionable activities that will help you transform: 1) you as an individual, and 2) everyone around you that you influence. The goal of this workshop is to give participants insight on the choices that we all have to make as leaders. The choices are simple, do we want mastery or mediocrity? Excellence or insignificance? It's up to each one of us to embrace accountability for the environment that we create from our leadership influence.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will: 1) learn the importance of influence over a positional title by putting into practice the primary core principles of leading without a title; 2) participate in a series of activities that will help them foster deeper relationships in the workplace, such as developing their personal Golden Tablet, the Leadership Pot, and the teamwork bridge designed to help grow influence.





BRASS FROM THE PAST

"A Tribute to the Legends of Rock & Soul"



Thursday, January 19

9:00 pm – 12:00 am

Hilton Chicago,

International Ballroom,

Second Floor

This is not a ticketed event... everyone is welcome!



SPONSORED BY:





Saturday, January 21
7:15 pm – 10:30 pm
Museum of Science
and Industry

Stand inside a 40-foot tornado. Mingle below historic aircraft. Explore a World War II German submarine. The Museum of Science and Industry (MSI), is one of the largest science museums in the Western Hemisphere and is housed in the only remaining structure from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Join us for an extraordinary evening as we celebrate the close of conference at this year's premier destination.

THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT!

Ticket includes:

- Roundtrip shuttle service from the Hilton Chicago;
- Admission to the Museum of Science and Industry*, including special access to the *U-505 Submarine* exhibit and the Omnimax Theater featuring the *National Parks Adventure* movie;
- Dinner buffet with unlimited beer, wine and soft drinks; and
- A great night of entertainment and fun!

TICKET INFORMATION:

- Delegates who register for the Full Package or the Saturday Only Package will receive one adult ticket.
- Adult tickets are \$95; Child tickets (12 and under) are \$35.
- Additional tickets may be purchased through the pre-registration process or on-site from Conference Registration.
- Tickets **will not be sold** on-site.



Buses will depart from the Hilton
Chicago beginning at 6:45 pm.

* Includes access to the main floor and balcony, lower level *U-505 Submarine* exhibit, and Henry Crown Space Center & Omnimax Theater.

SPONSORED BY:



	BOARDSMANSHIP	DIVERSITY	FACILITIES	FINANCE/ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	GOVERNANCE/ LEGAL	HR/RISK MANAGEMENT
8:15 am - 9:30 am		<p>#141 – Walking in the World and Enjoying Every Step</p> <p>#1006 – From Geeks to Geezers - Managing Today's Generational Mix</p>	<p>#615 – Fusion at Nature Centers – Injecting Learning Into Architecture</p> <p>#619 – Lifeguard Training with Police and Fire Departments</p> <p>#620 – Making Fitness Facilities Functional</p>	<p>#313 – Information Security to Keep You Safe Online, Now</p> <p>#325 – GASB New Financial Reporting Model</p>	<p>#110 – Legal/ Legislative, Part I</p> <p>#137 – Dealing with Bullying in Your Agency's Programs and Staff</p> <p>#317 – Updates on the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Acts</p> <p>#329 – Competitive Bidding and Public Contracting</p>	<p>#314 – Active Threat Emergency Preparedness</p> <p>#321 – Solving Your Accelerated Payment Issue</p> <p>#327 – Tips for Recruiting the Millennial Workforce</p>
9:45 am - 11:00 am	#144 – Turmoil to Stability	#1008 – Grants: More Than Clicking a Button, Part I	<p>#406 – Building Blocks of Early Childhood Centers</p> <p>#610 – 100,000 Visitors in Your Park! Planning and Hosting Special Events</p> <p>#618 – Lessons in High Performance Building Systems</p> <p>#622 – Navigating Group Training vs Group Fitness – Be Successful at Both</p>	<p>#135 – Income Protection For Your Lifetime, IMRF Retirement Overview</p> <p>#306 – Park District Mobile App</p>	<p>#111 – Legal/ Legislative, Part II</p> <p>#127 – Budgets, Levies and Bonds—Essential Information for Successful Financial Operation</p> <p>#316 – Do You Comply with the Prevailing Wage Act?</p>	<p>#107 – Sexual Predators: Is Your Agency Safe?</p> <p>#309 – Managing and Using Drones in Recreational Public Property</p> <p>#319 – Hot Topics in Labor and Employment Litigation for 2017</p>
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm			#611 – An Alternative Process To Major Aquatic Equipment Selections	#328 – Power Tips and Tricks Using Microsoft Excel and Word		<p>#305 – Interviewing for RESULTS...Secrets to the Selection of TOP Performers</p> <p>#629 – Hearing Protection That Works</p>
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm	#129 – Bonds for Boards....What Do You Need To Know?	<p>#115 – Transgender: Dealing With the Complex Issues Impacting Park Districts</p> <p>#1009 – Grants: More Than Clicking a Button, Part II</p>	<p>#613 – Does Your Aquatic Facility Keep You Up At Night?</p> <p>#616 – Greenfields to Sportsfields: The Making of the Stuart Sports Complex</p>	#311 – Technology Security Everyone In Your Organization Should Know	<p>#108 – Public Meeting Best Practices: From Crowd Control to Errant Commissioners</p> <p>#114 – Property Brothers: Park Edition</p> <p>#117 – Video Surveillance: How it Impacts Park Districts</p> <p>#128 – Employee and Commissioner Fringe Benefits</p> <p>#138 - Preparing Your Board for Addressing Issues with the Public and Avoiding Negative Publicity</p>	<p>#310 – FLSA: The Next Chapter</p> <p>#324 – Aligning Strategic Plans with Employee Performance</p>

LEADERSHIP/ MANAGEMENT	MARKETING/ COMMUNICATIONS	PARKS/NATURAL RESOURCES	RECREATION	THERAPEUTIC RECREATION
<p>#21 – Fire It Up! The Power of Making Good Happen</p> <p>#24 – Next Level Data</p> <p>#113 – Leadership Development –Maximizing Your Potential</p> <p>#404 – A Wellness Committee Goes Rogue</p>	<p>#907 – Using Signage and Graphics to Promote Your Brand</p> <p>#909 – The Power of Audience Segmentation – Meaningful Content Drives Participation</p>	<p>#209 – Inclusion Matters: Making Play a Priority for EveryBody!</p> <p>#216 – What's TICKing and BUZZing in Your Parks and Preserves?</p> <p>#220 – Capital Projects: Approaches for Improving Delivery Efficiency & Success</p>	<p>#410 – Fire, Shelter, Water – Can You Survive?</p> <p>#413 – Modernize Your Senior Center and Bring it Into The Future</p> <p>#414 – Sensory Solutions</p> <p>#416 – Laying a Solid Foundation for a Successful Youth Sports Program</p>	<p>#503 – Pitch It To The Parents: A Therapeutic Recreation Home Run</p>
<p>#12 – Unplug Illinois: Communicate the Value of Parks and Recreation Through Education and Storytelling</p> <p>#105 – Etiquette in the Workplace</p> <p>#505 – Communicate for the Win</p>	<p>#133 – Invasive Species of the Human Variety: Preparedness by Community Engagement</p> <p>#906 – Throw Out The Brochure – Modern Web Marketing</p>	<p>#206 – Urban Paradises: Putting Nature Back Into the City</p> <p>#213 – In-Stream Construction & Bank Protection: Lessons Learned</p> <p>#218 – Accessible Surfaces for Playgrounds, Trails, and Beaches - Research Findings</p>	<p>#140 – Sports Concussion: Overview and Review of Illinois Legislation</p> <p>#412 – Active Adult Programming A-Z</p> <p>#420 – Connecting People to Natural Environments</p> <p>#424 – Captain No-Fun's Guide to Safety at Your Next Event</p> <p>#426 – The Plight of the Middle Manager: The Art of Managing Up</p>	<p>#507 – Using the TR Process (APIE) in Inclusive Recreation Settings</p>
<p>#23 – Building Meaningful Relationships At Work!</p>	<p>#904 – HELP, My Website's Been Hacked!</p>	<p>#205 – Pest Risk Analysis: What's Missing in Your Management Plan?</p>	<p>#422 – Ecotourism & Ecorecreation in the Calumet Region and Chicago</p>	
<p>#16 – Avengers Assemble – Team Model for Change</p> <p>#22 – Moving from Management to Transformational Leadership</p> <p>#112 – Accreditation: A Blueprint to Excellence</p> <p>#323 – Successful Training Models to Enhance Visitor Engagement and Experience</p>	<p>#17 – Resume Writing and Interview Tips</p> <p>#903 – The Why and How of Sponsorship Sales</p>	<p>#134 – Wildlife of the Chicago Wilderness Region</p> <p>#212 – Recreation is Going to the Dogs</p> <p>#215 – Tipton Park 15 Years Later – An Ecological Restoration</p> <p>#217 – 3D Canopy Volume Analysis and the Urban Forest</p>	<p>#403 – Blowing off STEAM!</p> <p>#408 – Addressing Youth Gang Involvement Through Recreation Programs</p> <p>#418 – Got LAX? How to Start Your Own Program</p> <p>#421 – G.I.V.E. Generous Individuals Volunteering Endlessly</p>	<p>#509 – Dementia Related Disorders and the Impact on Community Programming</p>

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

	BOARDSMANSHIP	DIVERSITY	FACILITIES	FINANCE/ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	GOVERNANCE/LEGAL	HR/RISK MANAGEMENT
10:15 am - 11:30 am	<p>#103 – Productive and Purposeful Meetings At Your Agency</p> <p>#123 – Boardmanship Essentials, Part I</p>	<p>#1007 – Taking Diversity To The Next Level</p>	<p>#612 – Combating Private Swim Lesson Schools</p> <p>#617 – HVAC: What Operators Need to Know</p> <p>#628 – Lifeguard Training Drills</p>	<p>#322 – Getting Squeezed By Your Budget? How Cooperative Purchasing Can Help You Should Know</p>	<p>#106 – New FLSA Regulations: How Does This Affect Your Agency</p> <p>#118 – Director & Commissioner Relationships: Can Farmers & Cowboys Be Friends?</p> <p>#121 – Consolidation Issues Impacting Park Districts</p> <p>#125 – OMA-FOIA: What You Need to Know in 2017</p>	<p>#312 – Fraud Risks and Internal Controls</p> <p>#315 – Your Employee Handbook: Is it Helping or Hurting Your Organization?</p>
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	<p>#104 – Who's Afraid of Robert's Rules?</p> <p>#143 – Managing Presentation Nerves, Coping With the Fear Inside</p>	<p>#1005 – LGBT Issues in 2017</p>	<p>#623 – Oak Meadows Golf Course Master Plan and Renovation</p> <p>#627 – Time is Money: How the Workshop Process Builds Consensus Effectively</p>	<p>#25 – Borrowing and Investing in the Current Interest Rate Environment</p>	<p>#116 – Creating Intergovernmental Agreements That Are a Win-Win for All</p> <p>#120 – Director Contracts: Pluses, Minuses, Necessities, Language, & for Whom</p> <p>#126 – Changing Your Agency's Culture to Reduce Exposure to Tort Liability – New Perspectives and Best Practices</p> <p>#142 – Park Wars – The Never Ending Saga</p>	<p>#320 – HR Documentation, Personnel Files – Help!</p> <p>#326 – Helping You Through the Weeds: Medical Cannabis and Public Employers</p>
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	<p>#124 – Boardmanship Essentials, Part II</p> <p>#130 – Commissioners' Roundtable</p>	<p>#1003 – Managing Transgender Populations and Accessibility to Public Facilities</p>	<p>#614 – Financial Success In Concessions</p> <p>#630 – Time on Task</p>	<p>#318 – Park District Finances: Learning it Right and Meet Your Objectives</p>	<p>#119 – Drone Use and Regulations by Park Districts</p> <p>#122 – Referendums: Dealing with Public Questions</p> <p>#136 – Its Getting Hot in Here: Hot Topics in Employment</p>	<p>#307 – Terrific Training Tips</p> <p>#427 – DCFS Licensed Daycare: How Your Agency's Preschool Program May Be Impacted</p>
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm			<p>#621 – National Standards vs. User Group Screening-Are You at Risk?</p>			<p>#308 – How to Conduct a State and FBI Criminal Background Check</p>

LEADERSHIP/ MANAGEMENT	MARKETING/ COMMUNICATIONS	PARKS/NATURAL RESOURCES	RECREATION	THERAPEUTIC RECREATION
<p>#14 – Healthy Communities: Strategies and Tools to Reposition Parks and Recreation, Part I</p> <p>#18 – Game of Thornes</p> <p>#109 – Using Survey Research to Improve Your Operation</p> <p>#624 – Public-Private Partnerships: How to Determine If They're Right for You</p>	<p>#131 – Marketing & Managing With Drones</p> <p>#905 – Customer Service Boot Camp: Back To The Basics</p> <p>#911 – Tailoring Your Public Process: Engaging Your Community Without Opening Floodgates</p>	<p>#210 – The Bid Process in Plain English</p> <p>#211 – Green Until It Hurts – Case Study on Applied Sustainability</p>	<p>#409 – Exploring the Overlap: Park Lessons Learned from Museum Studies</p> <p>#419 – The Power of Pause: How Intermissions Can Increase Your Productivity</p> <p>#425 – Current Best Practice in Early Childhood Programming</p>	<p>#508 – What Verbal/Physical Intervention System Works Best for Your Agency?</p>
<p>#15 – Healthy Communities: Strategies and Tools to Reposition Parks and Recreation, Part II</p> <p>#19 – Approaching the Selfie Society: From Me to We</p> <p>#26 – iLearn: Top 5 in 75</p> <p>#139 – How to Start or Strengthen Your Local Park Foundation</p>	<p>#912 – Design and Coding Trends to Future-Proof Your Website</p>	<p>#221 – Up a Creek: Naturally Restoring Drainage in a Park Setting</p> <p>#222 – Outdoor Ice Rinks in Northern Illinois, Are We Nuts Again? Part I</p>	<p>#407 – Creating the Consciously Competent Outdoor Leader</p> <p>#417 – Building Connections Through Sport</p>	<p>#504 – Infusing the Arts Into Your Agency</p>
<p>#20 – Performance Management- Thinking Outside of the Dreaded Annual Performance Review</p> <p>#27 – IPRA Member Engagement Town Hall</p> <p>#28 – Bridging Differences in Practice and Research</p> <p>#207 – You Have A Comprehensive Plan – Now What?</p>	<p>#910 – Park District Use of Social Media</p>	<p>#132 – Best Management Practices for Natural Areas</p> <p>#208 – Think Outside The Proverbial Sandbox – Everybody Plays!</p> <p>#223 – Outdoor Ice Rinks in Northern Illinois, Are We Nuts Again? Part II</p>	<p>#411 – Ace Your ACA: From Staff Training to Final Visit</p> <p>#415 – The Balancing Act</p> <p>#423 – Teen Service Projects: Helping Your Teens Help You!</p>	<p>#506 – Understanding Cultural Barriers for Individuals With Autism and Their Families</p>
<p>#13 – Executive Director's Roundtable</p> <p>#625 – Public Golf and the CDGA: Win – Win!</p> <p>#913 – Making Your Citizen Opinions Matter</p> <p>#1004 – Building and Sustaining an Effective Team to Improve Organizational Management</p>		<p>#214 – Turning Headaches Into Assets: Managing Natural Areas on Park Properties</p> <p>#219 – Designing Fitness Focused Playgrounds</p>	<p>#405 – Athletic Events: Buzz, Bugs, and Brain Bank</p> <p>#428 – Beyond the Binary: Supporting Transgender Expansive Youth</p>	

Keynote General Session with Steve Gilliland

Saturday, January 21, 2017

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Grand Ballroom, Second Floor



Enjoy The Ride™

A blueprint for getting the most out of life, Enjoy The Ride™ is a hilarious and brilliantly conceived keynote that causes people to examine where they are personally and professionally. It lifts people up and inspires them to evolve and appreciate, rather than simply maintain and exist.

When you Enjoy The Ride™, you will learn to:

- Check Your Passion: Love what you do; never forget why you do it.
- Cure Your Destination Disease: Live more for today, less for tomorrow & never about yesterday.
- Refocus Your Attention: Decide what's important & never take it for granted.

If you want to achieve true success and fulfillment, you must first discover an enthusiasm for your work and personal life. Decide where you are heading, get on the bus, choose the right seat and Enjoy The Ride™!

About the Speaker

As a member of the Speaker Hall of Fame, Steve Gilliland is one of the most in-demand and top-rated speakers in the world. Recognized as a master storyteller and brilliant comedian, he can be heard daily on SiriusXM Radio's Laugh USA. With an appeal that transcends barriers of age, culture and occupation—plus an interactive and entertaining style—Steve shows audiences how to open doors to success in their careers, their relationships and their lives.

In addition to his brilliant speaking career, Steve is a prolific, accomplished author, evidenced by four of his books—*Enjoy The Ride*, *Making a Difference*, *Hide Your Goat* and *Detour*—perennially making the publisher's bestseller list and his being named Author of the Year. His thought-provoking writing style makes his articles a favorite with nationally prominent magazines. He influences the lives of millions through his presentations, books, CDs and DVDs.

Steve built a multimillion-dollar company from the ground up on the same philosophy he expounds to his audiences. If you continually learn more about your company, your industry, your customer and yourself, you will always be a leader. You will be purpose-driven rather than process-driven, and you will make a difference. His motto is straightforward: "If you take care of people, the business will follow." He has been recognized by Who's Who for Speakers and Business Professionals, and *The Pittsburgh Business Times* named his company one of the fastest growing privately held companies in the region.

Steve was born and raised in the Pittsburgh area, resides in North Carolina and travels the world. He received his bachelor's degree from Grove City College (PA) and his MBA from Globe University (MN). He is a proud grandpa, devoted father of four boys and a loving husband to his wife, Diane.



2017 Conference Registration Form

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 9, 2017

Register online at ilparksconference.com for a **\$25 per registration package discount!**

Registration for conference and any pre-conference workshops must be done at the same time.

Faxed or mailed registration forms will be accepted until January 9, 2017.

SECTION I. ATTENDEE INFORMATION

NAME _____ TITLE _____

NICKNAME FOR BADGE _____

AGENCY _____ EMAIL ADDRESS (REQUIRED) _____ PHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

MEMBER: IAPD IPRA NON-MEMBER PPRP APRP CPRP CTRS

MEMBER RATES: All registrations are checked for membership status. Refer to the Policy on Members and Non-Members on page 23.

Is this your first time attending the IAPD/IPRA Soaring New Heights Conference? Yes No

If "No," how many years have you attended? 2-5 6-9 10-15 16+

ADA COMPLIANCE: CONTACT LEESA JOHNSON AT IPRA AT LEESA@ILIPRA.ORG BY **JANUARY 6, 2017** IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY/MEAL REQUIREMENTS.

Emergency Contact (REQUIRED):		
Name:	Relationship:	Phone:

SECTION II. PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS – THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017 (Enrollment is limited – REGISTER EARLY!)

SESSION #	TITLE	FEE	CEUs
9:00 am – 12:00 pm			
10	The Confidence Quadrant™: Learn to Embrace Success and Failure	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
101	In Search of Service Excellence	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
201	Calling All Parkies	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
301	Breaking The Barriers To Leadership Success	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
401	Leadership Toolbelt: When to Move and When to Stay Put	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
501	SNAPSHOTS to SUCCESS: Living Life One Frame at a Time	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
601	Manage Your Facility for Success With a 30-Day Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
901	Search Optimization Masterclass: How to Rank High in Google	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
1001	Bring Your Brave Face, We're Gonna Talk Race	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm			
CDS	Career Development Symposium: Developing Emotional Intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/> \$89	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm			
11	How to Find Your WOW, NOW!	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
102	Leading Change	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
302	How to Reduce Unemployment Costs for the Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
304	Cyber Security: How Secure is Your District?	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
402	Moving On Up: Your Resume and Experience Are Not Enough	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
602	Creating A Dynamic Training Team – From Hiring to Selling	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
604	Park Properties Old and New: Pre-Conference Tour (Offsite)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
902	Marketing the Fitness Business in the Year 2017	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
1002	The Leader in You – What is LWT?	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
SECTION II SUBTOTAL		\$	



SECTION III. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION – FRIDAY & SATURDAY

PACKAGE*	EARLY (BY 12/5/16)		REGULAR (12/6/16 – 01/9/17)		ONSITE	
	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Full	<input type="checkbox"/> \$315	<input type="checkbox"/> \$620	<input type="checkbox"/> \$380	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$420	<input type="checkbox"/> \$830
No Frills	<input type="checkbox"/> \$260	<input type="checkbox"/> \$510	<input type="checkbox"/> \$315	<input type="checkbox"/> \$620	<input type="checkbox"/> \$370	<input type="checkbox"/> \$730
Friday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225	<input type="checkbox"/> \$440	<input type="checkbox"/> \$255	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$280	<input type="checkbox"/> \$550
Saturday Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$245	<input type="checkbox"/> \$480	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275	<input type="checkbox"/> \$540	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$590
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> \$210	<input type="checkbox"/> \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> \$210	<input type="checkbox"/> \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> \$210
Retiree	<input type="checkbox"/> \$135	<input type="checkbox"/> \$135	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Guest/Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> \$135	<input type="checkbox"/> \$135	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
CEU's <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday and Saturday					\$ N/C	
Friday, Awards Luncheon Ticket					<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 x ___	\$ _____
Friday, Dessert Ticket					<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 x ___	\$ _____
Friday, Awards Luncheon Preferred Agency Seating (Nonrefundable; includes legislator tables; must have 12 people; see page 19 for details.)					<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 x ___	\$ _____
Saturday, Closing Social Ticket to the Museum of Science and Industry					<input type="checkbox"/> \$95 Adult x ___	\$ _____
					<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Child* x ___	\$ _____
					<small>*Age 12 and under</small>	
CLE Package (3 CLEs = \$45; 4 CLEs = \$60; 8 CLEs = \$120)					<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 <input type="checkbox"/> \$120
STUDENTS: I would like to participate in the Awards Luncheon at no additional cost.					<input type="checkbox"/> YES	
IAPD/IPRA Members: I would like to donate a seat to a student at the Awards Luncheon at no additional cost.					<input type="checkbox"/> YES	
SECTION III SUBTOTAL					\$	

SECTION IV. SPECIAL EVENTS (Space is limited – REGISTER EARLY!)

Professional Connection: Thursday, January 19, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm (See page 25 for details.)

PCS	Professional Connection – Student	<input type="checkbox"/> N/C
PCP	Professional Connection – Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> N/C

Mock Interviews/Resume Review: Friday, January 20, 9:45 am – 11:00 am (See page 25 for details.)

MIS	Mock Interviews/Resume Review – Student	<input type="checkbox"/> N/C
MIP	Mock Interviews/Resume Review – Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> N/C

Special Session: Saturday, January 21, 10:15 am – 11:30 am (Space is limited. See page 24 for details.)

FMSS	#628 - Lifeguard Training Drills	<input type="checkbox"/> N/C
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Instructions: Enter the subtotal from each section. Add Section II – IV line totals together to get the total amount now due.

SECTION II: PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS	\$
SECTION III: CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$
SECTION IV: SPECIAL EVENTS	\$ N/C
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$

SECTION V. PAYMENT

METHOD OF PAYMENT * Should you make an error in calculating, your card will be charged for the correct amount.

Check # _____ (Please make checks payable to IAPD.) Visa MasterCard **TOTAL \$** _____

Cardholder's Name _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Cardholder's Billing Address _____ Zip Code _____

3-Digit CVC # _____ Signature _____

FAXED OR MAILED REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL JANUARY 9, 2017 AT:

2017 IAPD/IPRA CONFERENCE

P.O. BOX 756, Park Ridge, IL 60068 OR FAX: 847-957-4255

QUESTIONS? EMAIL YOUR QUESTION TO ILPARKS2017@CTEUSA.COM OR CALL 847-957-4255.

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE AND ANY PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS MUST BE DONE AT THE SAME TIME.

	Full Package	No Frills	Friday Only	Saturday Only	Student/Retiree	Spouse/Guest
All-Conference Awards Luncheon (Friday)	✓					
All Education Sessions (Friday/Saturday)	✓	✓	✓*	✓**	✓	✓
Closing Social (Saturday)	✓			✓		
Exhibit Hall Admission (Thursday/Friday)	✓	✓	✓*		✓	✓
Keynote General Session (Saturday)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Welcome Social (Thursday)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

*Education sessions and access to Exhibit Hall on Friday only.

** Education sessions on Saturday only.

CEU FEES – There are no additional CEU fees for Friday and Saturday sessions. However, you must request CEUs on your registration so that CEU coupons are generated with your registration materials. CEU fees for pre-conference workshops will be charged a \$5 fee.

FULL – Includes Friday and Saturday sessions; Admission to the Exhibit Hall; Friday All-Conference Awards Luncheon ticket; Keynote General Session; Closing Social ticket.

NO FRILLS – Includes Friday and Saturday sessions; Keynote General Session; Admission to the Exhibit Hall.

FRIDAY ONLY – Includes Friday sessions; Admission to the Exhibit Hall.

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- Cancellations must be submitted in writing and received [by December 19, 2016](#) in order to receive a refund less a processing fee of \$25. [No refunds will be granted for cancellations received after December 19, 2016.](#)
- Registrations will not be accepted after January 9, 2017; registrations not postmarked or faxed by January 9, 2017 will be returned. However, onsite registration begins at 7:30 am on January 19, 2017.
- [The deadline for Preferred Agency Seating is January 9, 2017.](#)
- ADA Compliance: Please contact Leesa Johnson at leesa@ilipra.org, no later than January 6, 2017 if you have any special accessibility/meal requirements.

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2017 EXHIBITORS

COMPANY	BOOTH#	COMPANY	BOOTH#
3D Design Studio	308	FGM Architects, Inc.	1411
ACTIVE Network, LLC	227	FieldTurf	322
All Inclusive Rec LLC	224	Finishing Solutions Network	1400
American Ramp Company	909	Fluid Running	1016
American Red Cross	705	Fountain Technologies LTD	302
Amplivox Sound Systems	809	Frederick Quinn Corp.	1421
Anova Furnishings	611	Frontline Technologies LLC	1610
Aqua Pure Enterprises, Inc.	207	Fun Express, A Subsidiary of Oriental Trading Company	1514
AstroTurf	812	Game Day USA	817
Awesome Amusement Party Rentals	409	Gen Power	314
BagSpot Pet Waste Solutions	819	Gold Medal Products, Co.	701
Beacon Athletics	201	Graf Natural Resource Management	1017
BioSeal	1621	Greensfields Outdoor Fitness	1619
Bounce Houses R Us LLC	1306	Green Source, Inc.	417
Bownet Sports	1302	Green-Up	1512
Bronze Memorial Company	1300	Haldeman-Homme, Inc.	225
BS&A Software	806	Halogen Supply Company, Inc.	303
BSN Sports	217	Harris Local Government	1403
 Burke Playgrounds Call One	1200	Henry Bros. Co.	310
Camosy Construction	111	Herkowski Stickler & Associates	327
Central Sod Farms Inc.	215	Hey and Associates, Inc.	222
Challenger Sports	1513	Hitchcock Design Group	1502
Chapman and Cutler LLP	109	Homer Industries, LLC	213
Charles Vincent George Architects	1412	Howard L. White & Associates, Inc.	300
Chicago Bulls/White Sox Training Academy	406	Hunter Irrigation / Fx Luminaire	704
CityReporter Software	910	I.D. EDGE Inc.	411
Clowning Around Entertainment	313	Illinois Association of Park Districts	301
Cody/Braun & Associates, Inc.	307	Illinois Girls Lacrosse Association (IGLA)	1018
Coerver Coaching	905	Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund	1401
Commeg Systems, Inc. (Time Pro)	1516	Illinois Park and Recreation Association	400
Commercial Recreation Specialists, Inc.	512	INNOVA Disc Golf	900
Connor Sports	105	INSPEC, Inc.	818
Cordogan Clark & Associates, Inc.	408	Integrity Fitness	1115
Corporate Construction Services	319	IPARKS	522
Councilman-Hunsaker	420	Jeff Ellis & Associates, Inc.	219
Crown Trophy	323	Kafka Granite, LLC	1003
 Cunningham Recreation/GameTime	511	Kay Park Rec Corp	1211
Custom Manufacturing, Inc.	206	Keeper Goals	204
Custom Playgrounds Inc.	1602	KI Furniture	1303
CXT, Inc.	1204	Kiefer USA	720
DASH Platform	815	Knutte and Associates, P.C.	702
Deere & Company	501	Lake Country Corporation	321
Design Perspectives, Inc.	325	Leopardo Companies, Inc.	1611
Dewberry Architects Inc.	205	Lincoln Aquatics	413
Dewitt Horticulture Textiles & Products	1521	 Links Technology	1402
Direct Fitness Solutions	519	Lohmann Companies	221
Divine Signs Inc.	1620	Lord & Murphy, Inc.	203
 DLA Architects, Ltd.	904	Mad Bomber Fireworks Productions	425
Doty & Sons Concrete Products, Inc.	517	Management Association	721
Drop Zone Portable Services, Inc.	1404	Matrix Fitness	609
ENCAP, Inc.	103	Maximum Solutions	1305
Energy Efficiency Products / ZOO Fans	1010	Maul Paving	1021
Engineering Resource Associates, Inc.	1410	MB Financial	1008
Entertainment Concepts	1007	Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament	805
Eriksson Engineering Associates, Ltd.	902	Melrose Pyrotechnics, Inc.	404
EVP Academies, LLC	412	Mesirow Financial	607
Farnsworth Group, Inc.	311	MidCo Inc.	1120
		Midco Electric Supply	915

2017 EXHIBITORS

COMPANY	BOOTH#	COMPANY	BOOTH#
Midwest Commercial Fitness	1510	Sink Combs Dethlefs	102
Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.	1201	SkyLogix, LLC	320
Mity-Lite, Inc.	216	Smart Industry Products, LLC	919
Monroe Truck Equipment, Inc.	1122	SmithGroupJJR	908
Murdock Mfg.	804	Soccer Made in America	1503
Musco Sports Lighting, Inc.	306	Sod Solutions, Inc.	813
Nagle Hartray Architecture, Ltd.	808	Spear Corporation	414
National Alliance for Youth Sports	1011	Speer Financial, Inc.	402
National Association of Park Foundations	912	Sport Court Midwest	218
Neptune-Benson, Inc.	1000	Sportsfields, Inc.	212
Next Generation Screen Printing & Embroidery, Inc.	1004	Stageline	1014
NiceRink	801	Stalker Sports Floors	613
Nicholas & Associates, Inc.	911	Stantec	318
Norwalk Concrete Industries	608	Starfish Aquatics Institute (SAI)	415
NuToys Leisure Products	403	Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center	1515
Outdoor Rinks by Iron Sleek	1505	Studio Bloom, Inc.	1413
Palos Sports, Inc.	113	Sundek of Illinois, Inc.	200
Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA)	208	Tallgrass Restoration, LLC	803
Parkreation, Inc.	112	Team REIL, Inc.	502
Perfect Turf LLC	104	Techo-Bloc Inc.	1206
Personalized Awards, Inc.	410	TERRA Engineering, Ltd.	917
PFM Asset Management LLC/IPDLAF+Class	407	The Lifeguard Store / All American Swim	1301
Planning Resources, Inc.	316	The Mulch Center	1504
Play-Well TEKnologies	1019	The Pizzo Group	820
PMA Financial Network, Inc.	907	The Spargo Group	422
PMI Photography	312	Tyler Technologies	110
Porous Pave Inc.	605	U.S. Arbor Products, Inc.	315
Porter Athletic	1415	U.S. Tennis Court Construction Company	520
Prairie Forge Group	811	Ultimate RB, Inc.	419
Prime Turf, Inc.	509	Univar	1414
Qualite Sports Lighting, LLC	914	 Upland Design, Ltd.	920
R.J. O'Neil Inc.	810	Vermont Systems, Inc.	421
Rain Bird Corporation	1006	Vernon and Maz, Inc.	309
RAMUC Pool Paint	1012	Visual Image Photography, Inc.	510
RATIO	903	Vortex Midwest	1609
RecClix LLC	821	W.B. Olson, Inc.	317
Record-A-Hit Entertainment	211	Water Technology, Inc.	1020
ReCPro Software	1310	Waterplay Solutions Corp. / IMAGINE Nation	108
Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC	518	Waupaca Sand & Solutions	1511
Recreonics, Inc.	901	We R Photos Photography	906
Reese Recreation Products, Inc.	100	WhiteWater	1002
Reinders, Inc.	427	Wholesale Distribution Alliance	921
RenoSys Corporation	1405	Wickcraft Broadwalks	1520
RGC Design	1311	Wight & Company	807
Robert Juris & Associates Architects, Ltd.	107	Williams Architects / Aquatics	226
Russo Power Equipment	814	Willoughby Industries	916
Safariland	1106	 W-T Engineering, Inc.	516
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By **Valerie Gerdes Lemme**, RLA, CPSI, CPRP, *Elk Grove Park District*

Going beyond the expected-

*An inclusive playground
expands to fill community needs.*

When it's time to replace play equipment or add a new feature to a park who gets to choose? The sale flyer from a play equipment manufacturer? The board member that lives closest to the park, the recreation supervisor that has a 4 week summer camp there? The park planner or mowing crew chief?



The playground concept was presented to the park board and the budget extended to include more elements that would make this park truly inclusive and accessible.

When the dollars and financial responsibilities are limited, everyone wants money for their favorite park or project. How do you and your board decide which parks will be improved or renovated? The Elk Grove Park District has both a comprehensive plan and a long range capital plan to guide staff and the commissioners. When a facility, park or playground comes up for review on the comprehensive plan and the capital plan many different staff members actually go out and look at the project. There may be supervisors from recreation programs or athletics, maintenance crew leaders, and directors sharing ideas, concerns and concepts. As part of the budget process, the project will be designed conceptually to include removals, supporting planning and permitting, consulting fees for architects or engineers and landscape architects as needed. Details such as planting plans, site furniture, lighting and utilities are included. It is also important to review with the maintenance people to make sure the finished project can be maintained to current standards without overwhelming the staff or equipment available. These documents provide guidelines to help prioritize when and where to use funds.

The Al Hattendorf Community Center includes the Elk Grove Early Childhood Learning Center and the Sheila Ray Adult Center in a repurposed school building. The site includes parking areas, a playground, a picnic shelter and bocce courts. Lawn areas near the playground are available for the preschool and summer camp programs for free play and games. The playground was renovated in 2010 following discussions with the preschool staff and grounds maintenance. The old playground was due for replacement and included a water play feature, sand play and a concrete pad for picnic tables. Preschool staff was working towards National Accreditation in Early Childhood Education (NAECE) and had many items on their wish list. Their list included a wheeled toy track, imaginative play zones, and an accessible play structure with a nature theme. A sensory or landscape area with seasonal plantings for butterflies, an outdoor story area, art court for messy projects and storage for large outdoor equipment like trikes, wading pools, sensory tables, water play toys and miscellaneous sports equipment. A shaded picnic area and accessible play equipment with a nature theme were highly recommended. Working with Landscapes Structures (NuToys Leisure

The input from our residents and early childhood teachers along with the experience of NWSRA, our professional staff and park commissioners determined an accessible playground and more play areas will accommodate the special needs of many individuals.



Products) and Brusseau Design Group the park planner and directors developed several concepts. A review by the staff at the preschool, and the neighborhood at a public meeting helped to finalize the design elements. The park board supported the project and funding. Construction was set for 2010. The renovated playground and site amenities drew a lot of visitors. The facility rental customers soon spread the word of a fun playground outside the community.

A resident came to a park board meeting in 2015, expressing interest in having a fenced play area or park for her special needs child. None of the existing parks were completely fenced and gated. The board directed staff to propose which of the 40 playgrounds should be considered and investigate the possibility of a new site that could be an inclusive playground. The existing playground at the Al Hattendorf Center was determined as the most logical location; however any improvements would mean additional users on an already heavily used site. Creating an additional play area to include more accessible play elements on a unitary safety surface and additional fencing was a good option.

The park planner met with several members of Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) to find out what elements, activities and site amenities were most supportive of their patrons. How did their staff select parks or facilities for their field trips? Parking areas, restrooms, shaded picnic areas, multiple levels of challenge and secure locations were highlighted. Gated and fenced areas helped to establish boundaries for children and kept the groups together and focused. Having game courts for older children that did not fit on traditional equipment provided a recreation opportunity for Frisbee games, ball games and other activities such as running games or scavenger hunts.

Residents within the neighborhood and parents with children with special needs were interviewed to get a better feel for the quality of experience they wanted for their children. Many hours of discussion between staff and teachers at the preschool helped with details such as access and play options.

The playground concept was presented to the park board and the budget extended to include more elements that would make this park truly inclusive and accessible. The board wanted to support the mission statement “to provide safe and innovative parks and recreational opportunities.”

The equipment selected provides for all of the basic elements of play: swinging, spinning, sliding, balance, brachiating, and climbing. A group swing for multiple users or individuals that need to lie down to swing or are too large to fit in a traditional belt swing encourages all to join in the fun. A Kompan Supernova, a large spinning ring can be used in multiple ways by many children or an individual. A Landscape Structures multi-user see-saw encourages group play, facial recognition and balance. The cup shaped seats provide support and the center platform allows for larger children or adults to participate. The large rocking platform allows wheelchair users direct access without transferring enabling them to join with friends and family on a Sway Fun also by Landscape Structures. Brachiating or overhead climbing will be available on the Playworld Small Unity Climber. These elevated interlocking rings allow users to choose the path, spacing between handholds and create their own games. A hand cyclist mounted with a seat or open for wheelchair access provides coordination, aerobic activity and shared experiences. Outside the play area a swinging bench allows for a reflective quiet zone to observe but still be a part of the play experience. Accessible unitary surfaces provide safe and stable footing for those with mobility or balance issues.

The selection of additional features was based on the input from residents, the NWSRA, early childhood teachers, our professional staff and park commissioners. The play events will accommodate the special needs of many individuals. Parents and grandparents will be able to share in the fun and participate more fully with their children. The quiet areas of the story garden, art court and sensory garden will provide a contrast to the open lawn areas for running games and the brightly colored play equipment and physically challenging motion play zones. Everyone can gather under the large picnic shelter and be a part of the community that plays together.



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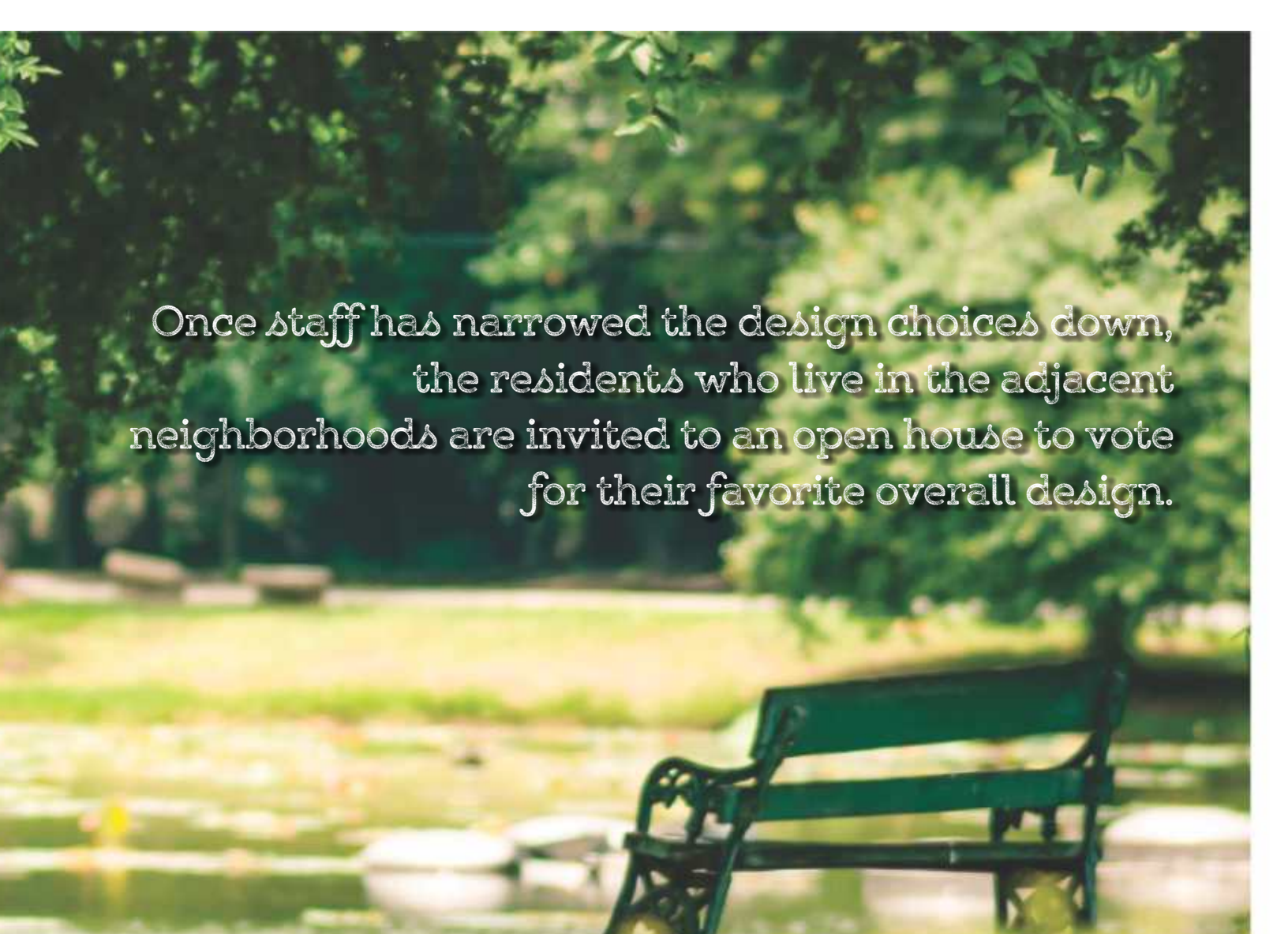
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Parks

DESIGNED TO MATCH COMMUNITY INTERESTS

By Bill Rosenberg, Director of Parks, Facilities, Production, Carol Stream Park District



Once staff has narrowed the design choices down, the residents who live in the adjacent neighborhoods are invited to an open house to vote for their favorite overall design.

Park design is for the most part very selective, based on location, budget and community needs. Projects can range from replacing a playground to repaving a parking lot. Occasionally, we have the opportunity to replace or redesign an entire park. As is the case with most park districts, a consultant is hired or, depending on the project and district size, the work can be done “in-house.” The board of directors determines a budget for the project by considering what the project includes, such as playground equipment and/or hardscape. We engage the public in various aspects of the planning and design process and have found the entire community benefits from doing so.

Over the last several years Carol Stream Park District has been improving the park hardscapes to include a dedicated location for a playground, sidewalks and drainage. The idea behind this type of planning is to allow for expansion in the future. We can easily then remove an old playground and replace it in the same location while keeping the hardscape intact.

Playground projects generally begin by requesting layouts from several equipment manufacturers. Next we have a community meeting to gather input on which specific pieces of equipment the public would most like to see installed on the new playground. Staff

then evaluates each of the playground designs and narrows down the selections. Designs may be eliminated due to a number of reasons, for example, too many roof structures as roofs are expensive, not enough slides or the color of the new equipment is not the same as the old playground. Neighborhoods tend to call a playground the “blue park” or “orange park” because the residents associate a playground color to the park. We try to maintain the old color scheme whenever possible so that we are mindful of the community. Once staff has narrowed the design choices down, the residents who live in the adjacent neighborhoods are invited to an open house to vote for their favorite overall design. After the installation is completed, the local neighbors are invited to a grand opening dedication where everyone can come and enjoy the new park!

Another way to have neighbors get involved in park design is to invite them to offer input in creating a master plan for a park. Although this can generate some terrific ideas, caution needs to be used with this approach as the suggested plans can be too expensive to ever be built. People can be left feeling disappointed. For example, during one community design meeting, suggestions included: a zip line over a pond area, three restroom buildings located on each end of a park and paths that would have several bridges going over wetlands. All of



Involving your community and residents in the planning process both big and small, from playground design to a comprehensive park district plan, will enthusiastically champion the common goals of your park district

these are great ideas, but can you imagine our safety coordinators lying awake at night knowing we had a zip line over a pond! When residents see something suggested, they tend to believe it is going to happen. If choosing to do a master plan, have pictures available of amenities that would actually work in the park and display these for voting on by the public. The zip line suggestion was given over ten years ago and we still get calls asking when it will be built!

In addition to gathering community input for a specific playground installation or a park master plan, our district has also used community surveys. We have found that the best way to understand community interests and what is seen as lacking in the park district system is through the community survey.

In 2008, our marketing department developed the title “2025” for a survey project that would help us identify what was important to community stakeholders for the long-term health, happiness and success of our community from the aspect of recreation and parks. They were asked what they would like to see in the parks and trail structures, as well as overall recreational offerings throughout the park district. In May of 2008, we began with focus groups and one-on-one interviews with community leaders, as well as residents. Three public input sessions were held and from these ideas and opinions a survey format was created. The survey was mailed to every household the park district serves and the results provided four main areas of interest from the community, which were: a new community recreation center, an indoor pool, improvements to parks and trails, and long-term care and maintenance of our parks and facilities.

In May 2009, a steering committee consisting of residents was formed and they continued to study and define the improvements indicated by the community survey. Then in June 2009, in conjunction with the park district, the steering committee held a public forum to discuss and rank the individual components. The forum was followed up with four smaller study groups, one assigned to each of the four areas of interest. By September 2009, a final open house was held to showcase a refined plan. Final comments and ideas from this meeting helped the steering committee and volunteers finalize a recommendation. The final recommendation was presented to the board of commissioners in October of 2009.

Based on all the input, the following recommendations were presented:

Build a new recreation center that would include-

- Indoor pool area that includes a lap pool and a therapy pool
- Multi-court gymnasium, indoor walking/jogging track, large and dividable multi-purpose rooms
- Fitness center with machines, free weights, and workout rooms

Multiple park and sports field upgrades-

- Repave trails and build new trails to be connected to the existing trails
- Add trees and lighting to some park areas, add and improve natural planting areas
- Build an off-leash dog park
- Add lighting to and reconfigure the ballfields at McCaslin Park to a “hub” design
- Improve the drainage and add lighting to Armstrong Park ballfields

Create a ten-year maintenance plan that consists of-

- Upkeep of existing buildings that includes window, door, flooring, furniture and roof replacement
- Improve the outdoor water park and parks playgrounds by replacing one playground per year
- Maintain the condition of paths and walkways throughout the park district
- Sports fields- replace backstops, fencing, benches and bleachers. Add lighting where possible
- Add native plantings to create natural areas and reduce our energy use by eliminating some grass areas

Seek out new partnerships and extend existing sponsorships wherever possible to assist in obtaining these goals.

In the six years following the input from the community survey, two major projects and many smaller projects were completed.

A 98,000 sq. ft. community center was built which contains both a lap and a therapy pool, three gym courts, a full fitness center with two workout rooms and three flex-wall multi-purpose rooms with a kitchen. The rooms can be configured for use into one large room as well. The building attained a LEEDS Silver Certification. Through partnership with the Village, the neighboring Town Center parking lot and adjacent property are shared for multiple special events throughout the year.

The other major project completed includes improvements to the McCaslin Sports Complex. Artificial infield turf and lighting were installed in the four ballfields. A flush restroom building was added as were two playgrounds, a Cricket field and a walking trail. Partnering with our neighbor, Wheaton Bible Church, we have additional parking with a shared lot and connecting walking paths that doubled the path length.

To address the plan for native areas, Slepicka Park was developed with 90% native plantings and a walking path meandering throughout. Outdoor exercise stations were installed along the path as well as a community garden for those with a green thumb to enjoy!

Additionally, fourteen new playgrounds have been installed since 2010 when the community identified through the survey the need for playground improvements and a replacement program of one playground per year was implemented. Among these projects was our playground for dogs, the Bark Park. Dogs and dog owners alike have come to thoroughly enjoy the fun addition of this park.

Involving your community and residents in the planning process both big and small, from playground design to a comprehensive park district plan, will enthusiastically champion the common goals of your park district!

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Kids' Castle Playground

*by Cheryl Buhmann, Marketing and Communications Manager
Vernon Hills Park District*

Kids' Castle has a unique story because the playground in Deerpath Park was designed, funded, and built by community volunteers. In 1995, the Vernon Hills Park District was planning to renovate an existing playground. However, residents had another idea and presented a proposal to the park district to build a "mega playground" on the spacious site and moreover, they would offer manpower and raise funds to support the project.

A committee of thirty-eight residents volunteered to spearhead the project. The various tasks necessary to bring this project to fruition were divided into nine sub-committees: tools, design/special needs, childcare, public relations, materials, volunteers, food, fundraising, and a children's committee. Two volunteers became the general coordinators for the project. Further, thirteen residents became site construction captains. A small construction team was paid to oversee the whole project and an organization that specialized in wooden castles was contacted for further design input. The committee estimated that 6,000 volunteer hours were needed to complete the playground project. The local schools held a "Design Day" where 1,800 children had the opportunity to express their ideas of what features they wanted in a new playground. Their ideas were crafted into a unique medieval design that met applicable safety and accessibility standards. "Kids' Castle" was named through a contest for local children.



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By Liz Gnipe, Marketing Specialist, Gurnee Park District

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EDITORIAL DUE DATES

ADVERTISING DUE DATES

Issue	Focus	Feature Length Editorial Materials Due (1200-1500 words photos 300 dpi)	People & Places Section Materials Due (200 words photos 300 dpi)	Ad Reservation Date	Ad Materials Due
Jan/Feb	Reaching Your Fitness Goals PLUS: Soaring to New Heights Conference Program	10/1/16*	11/13/16*	11/13/16*	11/27/16*
March/April	Going Green (Including LEEDs certified buildings) Plus Photo Contest and Soaring to New Heights Conference Winners	1/11/17	1/15/17	1/15/17	1/22/17
May/June	Community Partnerships (Including long-term impactful relationships)	3/14/17	3/18/17	3/18/17	3/25/17
July/August	Trends in Aquatics (Including how swimming lessons save lives)	5/9/17	5/13/17	5/13/17	5/20/17
Sept/Oct	Pre- Conference and Leadership and Board Development	7/11/17	7/15/17	7/15/17	7/22/17
Nov/Dec	Successfully Marketing your Agency (Focus on large campaigns)	9/12/17	9/16/17	9/16/17	9/23/17
Jan/Feb 2018	TBA PLUS: Soaring to New Heights Conference Program	10/3/17*	11/14/17*	11/14/17*	11/31/17*

* The conference issues are on an accelerated schedule. All editorial and advertising materials are due sooner than normal.



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PEOPLE & PLACES



Park and Recreation Veteran Molly Hamer Joins Northbrook Park District as New Executive Director

Molly Hamer, of Geneseo, Illinois is the new executive director for the Northbrook Park District. She is the board secretary of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association. Molly, a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, has 30 years of park district experience, with 10 of those years as an elected official. "Our board is thrilled to bring an experienced, dynamic, and

creative executive director to our team," said Michael Schyman, President, Northbrook Park District Board of Commissioners. "Molly's success at Geneseo Park District – from operations, to administration, to strategic planning – and her lifetime of experience in parks and recreation are significant assets as we pursue our new master plan here in Northbrook."

Molly said, "I look forward to working in Northbrook, and to building relationships that will help us continue to have a positive impact on our community through parks, facilities and programs that enhance the lives of our residents. She is a current member and past president of the Geneseo Rotary Club and served as chair of the Geneseo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in 2015. Molly was honored with the 2016 Joseph Bannon Practitioner Award from the University of Illinois Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism. She holds an M.S. in counselor education from Western Illinois University in Moline, and a B.S. in recreation from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Hamer and her husband have three grown children.



The Arlington Heights Park District Welcomes Rick Hanetho as its new Executive Director

Rick Hanetho began his career in parks and recreation in high school, where he landed his first job at the Palatine Park District. Rick received his degree in recreation administration from Southern Illinois University in 1986. He has worked for the Palatine, Schaumburg, Carol Stream and Northbrook Park Districts. He is a member of the Board of

the Illinois Park & Recreation Association and the Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA). Rick, 52, grew up in the Northwest suburbs, and serves on the board of directors for Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association (NSSRA) and was the chairman of the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association in 2015.

He lives in Schaumburg with his wife and three children. "I can't say how much I look forward to embracing the challenge and working with the Arlington Heights Park District Board, its residents and the community as a whole, to continue to deliver the highest quality parks and recreation services in the country."



Donna Wilson, Director of Finance and Personnel, Arlington Heights Park District, is retiring after 37 years

With over 37 years of full-time management experience in the parks and recreation field, Donna is responsible for supervising and managing all accounting functions for the park district which has an annual operating budget of \$26 million and a

capital budget of \$5 million per year. During her time, she's been awarded the prestigious Government Finance Officers Association's Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for 30 years and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 14 years. In 2000, Wilson was the first recipient of the IPRA A&F section's Professional of the Year Award and the 2004 IPRA Chairman's Award for Outstanding Service.

Donna also oversaw all personnel and payroll functions and all hardware, operating systems and software development for a 150-user computer system, beginning with purchase decisions, implementation, through end-user training. Along with her park district responsibilities, she currently serves as the secretary of the board of the Metro Federal Credit Union. She has served on the board of directors of the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) and has held numerous leadership roles with PDRMA, IPRA, and GFOA Committees. And, she has been a guest lecturer at the National Park and Recreation Association, Illinois Park and Recreation Association, Midwest Institute of Park Executives, and annual conferences and seminars.

Prior to her tenure at the AHPD, Donna was the superintendent of finance for the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District in Park Ridge, Illinois. Congratulations Donna and thank you for your years of service.



In Memoriam

Jack L. Fogel, 80, of Rock Island, passed away on Saturday, July 9, 2016, at his home. Jack was born on July 19, 1935, in Moline, a son of Howard Fogel and Elizabeth Croegaret Fogel. He graduated from Moline High School in 1953. Mr. Fogel married his high school sweetheart, Marcia Pryatel on June 8, 1957, in Moline, they have been married for 59 years. He was a 1957 graduate from the University of Illinois. Jack was the director of parks and recreation for the city of Rock

Island. He retired from the city of Rock Island after 30 years of service. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church, Rock Island, and he served on the board of directors of the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association. He received certifications from the Park and Recreation Administration Finance and from the Great Lakes Park and Recreation Professionals. Jack served in the Illinois National Guard.

Survivors include his wife, Marcia; a son, Tim (Nettie) Fogel, Moline; daughters, Kathleen (Doug) Richmond, Culver City, Calif., Holly Fogel, San Francisco, Calif.; and grandchildren, BriAnn, Ted, Dylan and Sophie.



Alan Welk, Superintendent of Parks, of the Arlington Heights Park District, is retiring after 37 years

Alan began his career in the parks and planning department as a park groundsman in 1979 and has held supervisory roles since 1997. He earned a National Swimming Pool Foundation's Certified Pool Operators Certification in

1997 and he's been the superintendent of parks – trades since 2003.

Alan is someone who takes great pride in his work and sets high quality standards which has enabled the park district to operate efficiently and effectively. He has played an important role in providing leadership to his department and beyond. Alan was instrumental in the management and maintenance of all building and grounds plumbing systems, heating and air conditioning and ventilation systems, carpentry and general building and park facility management.

He has played an important role in numerous projects over his career, including the creation of the North School Park holiday light display, Lake Arlington, the renovations of Pioneer Community Center and Camelot Community Center, just to name a few. He has also played a key role in the management and set up of the Village of Arlington Heights' Frontier Days Festival, a five-day event which is enjoyed annually by thousands of Arlington Heights residents and neighboring suburbs. Congratulations Alan and thank you for your years of service.



L-R: Scott Jacobson, Jack Schmerer, Rick Drazner, Adriane Johnson, Larry Reiner

The Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners has 100% participation in the Park District Youth License Plate Program!

In 7 years, this board alone will fund a PowerPlay! grant of more than \$1,000 to an IAPD member agency. It is no surprise that this board is also comprised of all **Master Board Members** through **IAPD's Board Member Development Program**. Way to set the bar high Buffalo Grove!

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